

# Care Gram

## Nuclear Medicine Test

**Date of Test:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Test Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Welcome

Welcome to the Licking Memorial Hospital (LMH) Radiology Department. Your doctor has requested a nuclear medicine test. This test uses a radioactive substance to produce images and measurements of organs and tissues. A certified technologist will perform the test. A radiologist (a doctor who specializes in medical diagnosis by X-ray) will read it.

A nuclear medicine test is used to look at:

- Kidney function
- Blood flow and heart function
- Lungs for respiratory and blood flow problems
- Blockage of the gallbladder
- Bones for fracture, infection, arthritis or tumor
- The presence or spread of cancer
- Bleeding in the bowel
- The presence of infection
- Thyroid function

### Allowing Time

The test usually takes 30 to 90 minutes. Some tests are finished in one time period. For other tests, you may have to receive a radioactive substance and return at a later time. You also may have to return in several days for more pictures. You will be told more about this at your test.

### Preparation

Most of the tests do not need special preparation. You may eat or drink before the test, unless your doctor tells you otherwise. See below:

- Gallbladder test (Test can take 60 to 180 minutes)  
Do not eat or drink for 4 hours before the test.
- Gastric emptying (Test usually takes between 2 and 4 hours)  
Do not eat or drink for 12 hours before the test.
- Kidney test (Test can take 30 to 90 minutes)
- Thyroid test (Two day test)
  - Do not take thyroid medication for 4 to 6 weeks prior to the test.
  - Tell your doctor if you have had any tests using contrast media within the last 8 weeks.
  - Day 1 – Take the pill provided by Radiology. Return 4 hours later for the 15 minute test.
  - Day 2 – Return to Radiology for a thyroid scan. Please allow 45 to 60 minutes to complete the scan.



**Licking Memorial  
Health Systems**

1320 West Main Street • Newark, Ohio 43055  
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- Bone scan  
No preparation. After the injection, you will return 3 hours later for the test.

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Your Role

1. You will need to lay as still as you can for the test. This will help get the best pictures.
2. If you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant, be sure to let your doctor know before the test begins.

### Registration

Please report directly to the Radiology Department on the first floor of LMH at least 15 minutes prior to your scheduled test time.

- Bone scan: If you are having a bone scan, please arrive 3½ hours before your scheduled test time. You will receive an injection at this time. You may then leave and return in 3 hours for the test.

### During a Nuclear Medicine Test

- You will be given a radioactive substance called a radiopharmaceutical. It can be injected, swallowed, or inhaled. Different substances are used to study different parts of the body.
- There is not usually a reaction to the substance.
- The substance travels through your body, giving off gamma rays (invisible radiation). The gamma rays show the location of the substance in the body.
- Special equipment finds the gamma rays and records the rays as flashes of light. These are used to create pictures of the part of the body being studied.

### After the Test

You may return to your normal routine. There are no side effects to the radioactive substance. It will leave your body through your urine and stool.

### Finding Out the Results

The radiologist will study the test and give the findings to your doctor. Your doctor will discuss the results with you.

### Reminder

- If you have any questions about your test, please call (220) 564-4731.
- Report to the Radiology Department on the first floor 15 minutes before your test. For a bone scan, arrive 3½ hours before your test.

### Other Special Instructions

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Licking Memorial Health Systems complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.  
ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1 (220) 564-4006 (TTY: 1 (220) 564-4729).  
注意：如果您使用繁體中文，您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1 (220) 564-4006 (TTY : 1 (220) 564-4729)。