

Information for patients having a Thyroid scan (child)

Your Paediatrician has advised you that a Thyroid scan is necessary to assist with their diagnosis as part of your child's treatment. This scan will be carried out in the Nuclear Medicine Department, which is part of the Radiology (X-ray) Unit.

IMPORTANT:

You must attend Ward 14 the children's unit at 08.30 a.m. before coming to X-ray, to have a venflon inserted for the scan later.

We have arranged for a children's doctor from Ward 14 to insert a type of needle (called a venflon) to allow us to painlessly inject the special dye for the scan. The ward staff may apply EMLA cream to your child's hands. This numbs the skin to make insertion of the needle as painless as possible.

Once the venflon is in place you can come to the X-Ray Department and follow the black line on the floor around to Nuclear Medicine.

If your child is less than 5 years old he/she will be sedated for the test. This simply makes them sleepy; it is not like having an anaesthetic.

Before we can take any pictures we must inject the special dye for the scan. The injection goes via the venflon and it is entirely painless. There are no side-effects as the dye is completely harmless.

The scan is performed on a bed with a large detector suspended above it. This takes pictures of your Child's neck for about 20 minutes. It is very important that the child remains perfectly still during the scan.

Regulations mean that we are only able to allow one parent in the scanning room for the test.

After the Test we will remove the venflon and you may take your child home. However, if they have been sedated they must return to the ward to be discharged.

The results are sent to the consultant, who will probably send for you to come back to Children's Outpatient's clinic.

Our commitment to confidentiality

We keep personal and clinical information about you to ensure you receive appropriate care and treatment. Everyone working in the NHS has a legal duty to keep information about you confidential. We will always ask you for your consent if we need to use information that identifies you. We will share information with other parts of the NHS to support your healthcare needs, and we will inform your GP of your progress unless you ask us not to. You can help us by pointing out any information in your records which is wrong or needs updating.