FAUQUIER MHOSPITAL

MEDICAL IMAGING DEPARTMENT www.fauquierhealth.org Questions? Call 540-316-4500

CT Exam Patient Information and Preparation

Your physician has requested that you have a CT scan.				
Your appointment:	at		With Contrast	Without Contrast
11 —	(date)	(time)		

- You must have your physician order with you when you come for your CT examination.
- Women who are pregnant, or suspect they may be pregnant, should not have a CT scan without consulting their physician.
- If you are over age 60 and your CT exam is ordered <u>WITH contrast</u> you must have a BUN/Creatinine lab test within the 6 weeks prior to the exam.

Questions about your medical history, including current medications and allergy information will be asked on the day of the exam. Please have a list of medications with you on the day of your exam.

What is a COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY ("CT") examination? CT uses a thin beam of x-rays shaped like a fan that passes through the body. This information is processed by a computer and then displayed for viewing.

<u>How do I prepare for my CT examination?</u> Wear loose, comfortable clothing. We encourage you to go to the bathroom before the test. Do not eat or drink anything 4 hours prior to the exam. You may take your medication with a small amount of water.

<u>If you are scheduled for a CT scan of the abdomen and/or pelvis</u>, you will need to come to the Medical Imaging Department at least two hours before your CT exam to register and drink your oral contrast (barium). This oral contrast liquid is used to help us see the GI tract more clearly. You will be given directions for drinking it when you arrive.

<u>CT exams with (IV) contrast</u> For CT exams <u>with IV</u> contrast, you will not be able to eat or drink for 4 hours prior to your exam. You will be given an intravenous (IV) injection of contrast media. It may make you feel warm or give you a strange taste in your mouth, but this will pass very quickly.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS OVER AGE 60: BUN/Creatinine lab tests must be performed on **all** patients over age 60 within 6 weeks prior to the exam. This is due to the injection of the IV contrast. If you have not had your BUN/Creatinine lab test, it is best if you come to the hospital the day before the CT exam with a lab order for this test. If it must be done on the same day as the CT, you will need to arrive 1 hour before your CT appointment time to register and then report to the Outpatient Laboratory for the BUN/Creatinine lab test. Not all CT exams require the use of IV contrast. For these exams, you may eat/drink as you wish. If you are unsure if your exam is with or without IV contrast, please contact your physician or the Medical Imaging Department.

What can I expect during the CT examination? A registered CT technologist / radiologic technologist will explain and perform your exam. During the exam you will lie on a table that slides into a doughnut-shaped hole. The actual scan will be brief and painless. You may be asked to hold your breath periodically as you go through the scanner. Each CT exam is different, but most take no more than 30 minutes.

What kind of effects will the CT examination have on me? There are no ill effects and you may resume normal activity immediately after your CT exam.

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<u>How do I find out the results of my CT examination?</u> Your results will be reviewed by a radiologist (M.D.). The radiologist will send a report to your physician. The physician who ordered your test will give you the results.