

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

General Nuclear Medicine Patient Information and Preparation

Your physician has requested that you have a nuclear medicine exam.

Your appointment _____ at _____
(date) (time)

- *You **must** have your physician order with you for your nuclear medicine exam.*
- *Women who are pregnant, or suspect they may be pregnant, should not have any nuclear medicine examination without consulting their physician.*

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 nuclear medicine examination?

Nuclear medicine uses small amounts of radioactive materials to diagnose or treat a variety of diseases. The radioactive material, sometimes referred to as a radiotracer, is either injected into a vein, swallowed, or inhaled as a gas. The radioactive energy given off by the radiotracer is then detected by the nuclear medicine camera and images of the appropriate body parts are captured.

How do I prepare for my nuclear medicine examination?

Wear loose, comfortable clothing, free of any metal zippers, snaps or buttons. For some examinations or procedures it may be necessary for you to undress and change into a gown. Preparation for each examination varies, so *it will be very important that you follow the preparation instructions* given to you by your physician's office and/or the Medical Imaging scheduler. If you have any questions about your preparation, do not hesitate to call the Medical Imaging Department at the phone number given above.

What can I expect during the nuclear medicine examination?

During the nuclear medicine examination you will be required to lie still for the length of the study. Nuclear medicine exams can take from 15 minutes to 90 minutes to complete. You will be made as comfortable as possible and will have the option of listening to your favorite music or news program.

What kind of effects will the nuclear medicine examination have on me?

There are no ill effects and you may resume normal activity immediately after your nuclear medicine exam.

How do I find out the results of my nuclear medicine examination?

Your exam results will be reviewed by a radiologist (M.D.). The radiologist will send a report to your physician. The physician who ordered your nuclear medicine exam will give you the results.