

# Nuclear Medicine **MAG3 Kidney Scan**

## Patient Information Sheet

A MAG3 kidney scan is a diagnostic procedure which looks at how well your kidneys are functioning. It involves an injection of a small amount of radioactive tracer and imaging with a gamma camera.

### Preparation for your appointment

You may eat and take your medication as normal.

**In the 24 hour period before your appointment** drink at least 1 litre of fluids (preferably water). This will make giving the injection easier.

**Please drink 500mls of water 30 minutes before your appointment. You can use the toilet as often as you need to.**

*If possible, please come to your appointment alone as we can only accommodate a small number of people in our waiting room.*

### Are there any risks from the radioactive tracer?

The radioactive tracer is used as sparingly as possible and the benefits of this scan far outweigh the small risk from radiation.

The radiation dose you will receive is similar to the radiation received from natural sources over **3 months**.

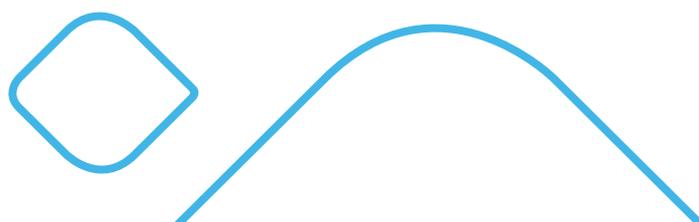
Drinking plenty of fluids and emptying your bladder regularly will help to remove the radiation. You should use the toilet sitting down for **24 hours** following your injection as your urine will be slightly radioactive.

### Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

**Let us know in advance if you may be pregnant or are breastfeeding.**

This is important because of the small risk of childhood cancer from the radiation that we use.

If you have male healthcare records and were registered female at birth, please talk to the technologist at your appointment so that they can rule out the possibility of pregnancy. This information will not be recorded or shared without your consent.



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## How is the scan performed?

- Just before your scan, you will be weighed and asked to empty your bladder.
- You will be asked to lie on the scanning bed. You will not be enclosed in a tunnel.
- A small amount of radioactive tracer will be injected into a vein in your arm. This will not make you feel any different.
- The images will then be taken which will take **up to 1 hour**. It is important to lie still and breathe normally during this time.
- Around **15 minutes** after the first injection, you will be given another injection containing a small amount of diuretic. This is to make your kidneys produce more urine.
- You will be asked to empty your bladder in the toilet before returning for another picture to be taken which will take **1 minute**.

## After your scan

For a few hours after your scan, you may feel you need to pass urine more often than normal due to the effect of the diuretic. The effects of this medicine may last up to 6 hours, and may cause mild discomfort. Please stay well hydrated and take your usual pain relief if necessary.

### Results

Results will be sent to the doctor or specialist who referred you for the scan in 2/3 weeks.

### Travelling after your scan

Some major event/ transport venues have very sensitive radiation detectors. These detectors could be triggered by the small amount of radioactivity remaining in your body on the days following your scan. If you're planning to travel within **seven days** following your scan, we recommend that you carry your appointment letter with you.

## Information for other hospitals or care homes

*Within the **four days** following your scan:*

If you are admitted to a care home or hospital (other than the RUH), or if you are cared for by a healthcare worker in your home, please ask them to contact the RUH Clinical Imaging and Measurement Department. Their employer might need to register with the Health and Safety Executive to show that their staff are aware of the small amount of radioactivity that is present for a few days after your scan.

If you have any concerns or questions about your scan, or you need this information in another format such as larger print, please telephone: **01225 82 6630**.

Clinical Imaging and Measurement Department  
Zone B, Department B58  
Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust  
Combe Park, Bath, BA1 3NG  
01225 82 6630 | [www.ruh.nhs.uk](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)

Please contact the Patient Support and Complaints Team (PSCT/ known previously as PALS) if you would like to feedback your experience of the hospital. Email: [ruh-tr.psct@nhs.net](mailto:ruh-tr.psct@nhs.net) or telephone: **01225 82 5656**.