

# Nuclear Medicine **Thyroid Scan**

## Patient Information Sheet

A Thyroid scan is a diagnostic procedure, which looks at how well the thyroid gland is working. It involves an injection of a small amount of radioactive tracer and imaging with a gamma camera.

### Preparation for your child's appointment

Your child may take any other medication as normal.

**In the 24 hour period before your appointment** encourage your child to drink plenty. This will make giving the injection easier. Please bring spare nappies for your child.

We have a DVD player and a selection of DVDs. You may like to bring your child's favourite DVD to watch, especially if you feel that this will help your child to keep still during the scan. For younger children, please feel free to bring any small item which may help them feel more relaxed, such as a teddy, small blanket or a pacifier (dummy).

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

The radioactive tracer is used as sparingly as possible and the dose given is based on your child's weight. The benefits of this scan far outweigh the small risk from radiation.

The radiation dose your child will receive could be up to the radiation received from natural sources in **1 month**.

Your child's urine will be radioactive for **24 hours** after injection. Encouraging your child to drink plenty and changing their nappy regularly will help to remove the radiation.

There are no restrictions for your child spending time with other people after their scan.

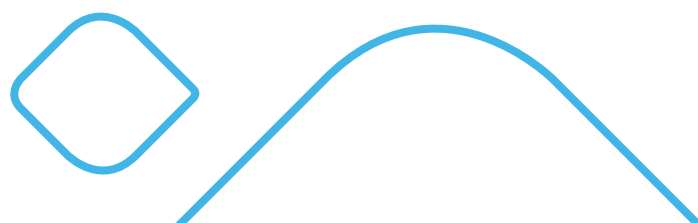
### How is the scan performed?

Your child's injection will be given through a small plastic tube in a vein (cannula)

- Cannulation will be in the Children's Outpatients Department **B11**.
- Numbing cream or spray will be applied to a small area of skin on your child's arm or hand. After a short period of time, a small cannula is inserted into a vein in this area.

You will then bring your child to the Clinical Imaging and Measurement Department in **B58** where they will receive their injection and scan.

- A technician will inject a small amount of radioactive tracer into the cannula. This will not make your child feel any different.
- The scan will be performed **20 minutes after injection**, this delay is necessary to allow the injection to be absorbed into the thyroid.
- The scan will be performed with your child lying on their back for up to **30 minutes**. You may remain with your child throughout the scan.



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## After your scan

### Results

Results will be sent to the doctor or specialist who referred your child for the scan within a few days.

### Travelling after their 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 child's body on the days following the scan. If you are planning to travel with your child within seven days following their scan, we recommend that you carry their appointment letter with you.

## Information for other hospitals or care homes

*Within the 4 days following the scan:*

If your child is admitted into hospital (other than the RUH), or if they 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 the scan.

If you have any concerns or questions about your child's 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**.

