

# Nuclear Medicine **Cardiac DPD Scan**

## Patient Information Sheet

A Cardiac DPD scan is a diagnostic procedure which looks at the function of the heart. It involves an injection of a small amount of radioactive tracer and imaging with a gamma camera and CT scanner.

### 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. You can use the toilet as often as you need to.

To optimise the images, we ask you to drink about 1 litre of any fluids **between** the two appointment times. Again, you may use the toilet as often as you need to.

Wear or bring clothes that **do not contain metal clips or zips**. **ALL metal objects above the waist such as jewellery and any clothing with zips or clips must be removed before the scan.**

*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 in **4 years**. Drinking plenty of fluids and emptying your bladder regularly will help to remove the radiation faster.

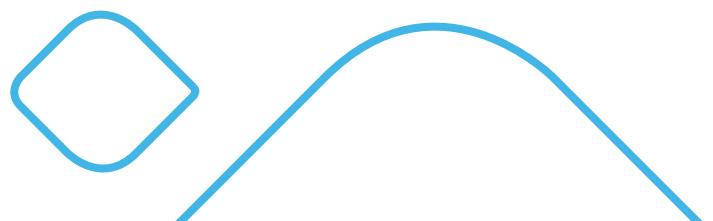
There are no restrictions for spending time with adults after your scan; however, children and pregnant women have a higher risk from radiation, so you should avoid close contact with them for **8 hours** after your injection. You should also use the toilet sitting down for **24 hours** to avoid splashes 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.



## How is the scan performed?

- A small amount of radioactive tracer will be injected into a vein in your arm. This will not make you feel any different.
- The scan will be performed **three hours later**, giving enough time for the tracer to be absorbed into your body. We will image with a gamma camera to see the radioactive tracer and a CT scanner using x-rays.
- You will be asked to remove any metal objects including clothing with metal before your scan. You will be scanned lying on your back for **45 minutes**. If you feel unable to remain still for the scan time, please contact the department to discuss.

## After your scan

### Results

Results will be sent to the doctor or specialist who referred you for the scan.

### 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 824080**

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Zone C, Department C16  
Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust  
Combe Park, Bath, BA1 3NG  
01225 824080 | [www.ruh.nhs.uk](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)

Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) if you would like to feedback your experience of the hospital. Email [ruh-tr.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ruh-tr.pals@nhs.net) or telephone **01225 825656**

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