

Greetings:

You are scheduled to have a nuclear medicine scan of your thyroid gland on the date/time noted on the front sheet of this letter.

PLEASE READ THIS LETTER CAREFULLY. IT CONTAINS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR NUCLEAR MEDICINE SCAN.

Weight Limit: If you weigh over 450 pounds, please call us at (804) 675-5510 at least 1 business day prior to your exam.

If you have received x-ray dye (contrast) in a vein or artery (for a CT scan, angiogram, heart catheterization, or other x-ray study) in the past 6 weeks, please let us know by calling us at (804) 675-5510 at least 1 business day before your appointment.

If you eat health food such as seaweed or kelp, or if you are using iodine medication such as Betadine (to clean wounds), please let us know by calling us at (804) 675-5510 at least 1 business day before your appointment.

If your current medications include thyroid hormone replacement pills (Synthroid or levothyroxine), PTU (propylthiouracil), or methimazole, please let us know by calling us at (804) 675-5510 at least 1 business day before your appointment.

NUCLEAR MEDICINE SCAN:

DO NOT EAT OR DRINK* after 11 PM the night before your appointment.

*If you are taking medicine in pill form, you may take the pill(s) with a little water 1 hour BEFORE your appointment.

The test takes 2 days to complete. On the first day you will be asked to swallow a capsule containing a small amount of radioactive material. You may start eating your usual meals 1 hour after you swallow the capsule.

On the second day, you can eat breakfast before your appointment. On the second day, we will take pictures of your thyroid gland. This may take from 45-90 minutes.

You will be asked to lie on a small cushioned table for the pictures. This is a picture of one of the nuclear medicine cameras:



WAITING TIME

We try and keep on schedule, but sometimes we fall behind (when there are sick patients who need immediate attention, when equipment breaks, when studies take longer than expected). Please be understanding if you have to wait. Even if you arrive early for your appointment, you may have to wait to have your study performed.

FEMALE PATIENTS:

If you are pregnant, if there is any possibility that you are pregnant, or if you are breast-feeding, you must let us know prior to the scan. Please call us at (804) 675-5510 at least 1 business day before your appointment.

TO CANCEL OR RE-SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT

If you need to cancel or re-schedule your appointment, please call us at (804) 675-5510 at least 1 business day before your appointment if possible. If you call to cancel your appointment, we suggest that you let your primary health care provider know that you have canceled your appointment.

INFORMATION

If you have any questions about the nuclear medicine thyroid scan, please call us at (804) 675-5510. We are ready to answer your questions, and to help you in any way we can.

Radiology Service/ H. H. McGuire VA Medical Center (114)
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Richmond, VA 23249
Telephone: (804) 675-5510