

## Things you may like to know before your CT scan—Please read

### Before your CT scan

- Your doctor will consider the benefit provided by having a CT scan and will be able to discuss with you.
- The radiology department will ensure that the benefit of the scan outweighs the risks associated with X-rays.
- Radiology routinely perform checks to ensure your scan is performed at the right time, covering the correct area and consider your recent scan history.

### After your CT scan

- Your CT scan will aid your doctor to be able to offer a diagnosis and/or treatment decisions . Sometimes further investigations are required as well.
- Your results will be sent to the doctor who referred you for your scan. This could be your: GP, or Hospital Doctor. Please allow up to a few weeks for the results to be processed . If you have any further concerns speak to your GP or leave a message with the hospital doctor's secretary . Switchboard will be able to transfer you.

### Our Standards

- X-rays (and CT scans) are governed by legislation .We perform a variety of tests routinely ,each day, to ensure our scanners produce images to the correct diagnostic standard.
- The scanner manufacturer performs regular maintenance to ensure the system runs satisfactorily.
- Our radiographers are trained to ensure radiation use is as low as reasonably possible for each procedure.

### Putting the CT scan radiation dose into perspective

- Everybody is exposed to a level of natural background radiation every day – this naturally occurs in soil, food, rocks, water and outer space. This is normal and natural.
- Each medical x-ray gives an additional dose, which varies with the type of examination. Low doses do not cause any immediate harm, but there is a very small increase in the chance of cancer occurring many years or even decades later.
- The risks in children are around twice those of middle-aged people from the same examination and much less in the elderly. However we all have a 1 in 2 chance of getting cancer even if we never have an xray and the risk of missing a serious disorder by not having a CT scan is considerably greater.
- Benefits of having a CT include : identifying and diagnosing disorders quickly, planning for surgery including determining whether surgery is required, guiding treatment, accurately identifying a cause of an acute emergency

**Please speak to the radiographer performing your scan if you have any further questions.**