

Chest X-ray Information for Patients

Your GP has referred you for a Chest X-ray. You can go to any of the Radiology (X-ray) Departments listed below. No appointment is required. Please attend as soon as possible as this will speed up your diagnosis.

Kettering General Hospital Area C 9am – 4pm Monday - Friday

Corby Urgent Care Centre 8am – 7.30pm every day of the week including weekends

Nene Park Out Patients, Irthlingborough 9am – 4pm Monday – Thursday

Isebrook Hospital Wellingborough 9am – 4pm Monday – Thursday

What should you expect when you come for your Chest X-ray?

We try to see patients as quickly as possible but sometimes there may be an unavoidable delay but our staff will keep you informed. You will be asked to take everything off above your waist and put on a Hospital gown. This is to ensure that the X-ray image is clear of external objects such as zips, buttons and buckles.

Is my X-ray examination safe?

Since radiation is used there is a small risk. All procedures are carried out under strict control to ensure that the radiation dose used to capture the image is as low and safe as possible. We receive a small dose of radiation every day from our environment. A chest X-ray dose is equivalent to three days of natural background radiation.

How long will it take?

Typically it will only take a couple of minutes to have the chest X-ray done. Occasionally, depending on how busy the department is, you may have to wait a short time to be seen. You can go home straight after the chest X-ray.

What happens after my x-ray?

Your GP will receive the result of your chest X-ray electronically within 7 days, please contact the surgery for the result.

Occasionally we may see something on the X-ray which requires further investigation, there are many possible reasons but it is important as for some people it could be something serious, such as cancer. You could be called back for a repeat chest X-Ray or a CT scan. If a CT scan is required you will be called back within a few days.

If you are called back for a CT scan please contact your GP so that you understand why. It is important that you attend for the CT scan

CT Scan

What is a CT scan?

CT stands for Computed Tomography. This is a scanning procedure that uses a combination of X-Rays and a computer to provide detailed images of your body.

What does a CT scan show?

A CT scan provides images of thin cross sections through your body. Images can be adjusted to enhance the detail of the area we are examining.

Before the CT scan

You may need to have a blood test prior to the scan if this is the case we will let you know.

During the CT scan

When you have a CT scan you need to lie on a table. The scanner is rather like a giant “polo mint”. The table will pass through the hole during the scan. The scanner is open at each end and you are not closed in. The CT scan will require you to have an injection of X-Ray contrast which further enhances the images.

You will need to remain still during the scan this is important because any movement will cause the CT images to blur and the scan may need to be repeated.

During the scan you will hear a small amount of noise from the scanner as it performs the scan and you will be asked to hold your breath. Several sets of images may be taken and there will be short periods between each set as the radiographer is setting up for the next set of images.

What if I need someone with me during the scan?

A patient will only be escorted into the CT scanner under exceptional circumstances, e.g. a very young child, as X-radiation is used for the scan. It is better to avoid exposing other people to this unless it is absolutely necessary. The radiographer performing the scan will usually decide this. They will make sure you are as comfortable as possible.

What happens after my CT?

Your GP will receive the result of your CT within 7 days. They will contact you to discuss the results and your next steps.

You may be contacted by the hospital to advise you to attend an outpatient appointment. Please make every effort to attend this appointment — it is important to rule out any abnormalities identified.

If you are called back for an outpatient appointment and you have not heard from your GP please contact your GP so that you can understand why you have been asked to attend this appointment.