What to bring to your appointment

- OHIP card
- Requisition (if required)
- Any x-rays (films or CDs, not just the written report)
- Medication list with dosage information
- Translator, if needed

Location

Diagnostic Services is located on the second floor of Building B.

Where to park

Parking is available in Visitor's Parking Lot 1 – Main Entrance/Link Lobby. Located on Church Street between Ninth Line and Bur Oak and can be accessed by the entrance off of Butternut Lane.

Where to go on the day of your appointment

Before proceeding to your appointment, you must **register with Main Entrance Registration** located in the Main Lobby (2nd Floor, Building A) **15 minutes before** your scheduled appointment.

Appointment Date: _____

Appointment Time: _____

To reschedule or cancel your appointment, call Patient Scheduling at 905-472-7020.

If you are feeling unwell, have a high temperature, cough or sore throat on or before the day of your appointment, please reschedule your appointment.

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MARKHAM STOUFFVILLE HOSPITAL CORPORATION

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Nuclear Medicine

Patient Information

MARKHAM STOUFFVILLE HOSPITAL CORPORATION

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A PROUD HERITAGE – AN EXTRAORDINARY FUTURE

What is nuclear medicine?

Nuclear medicine is a diagnostic imaging specialty that assesses the condition of organ systems or body functions. During the exam a small amount of a radioactive tracer (called a radiopharmaceutical) is given to the patient and special cameras are used to take pictures of your body.

Some of the most frequent nuclear medicine scans are done to assess the heart, bones and thyroid gland and to evaluate the extent of some infections in the body. Nuclear medicine scans may also be used to provide information to your doctor about staging of some cancers and response to treatments.

Preparation varies depending on the nuclear medicine test or scan that you are having. Please see the specific scan or test on our website for preparation instructions.

You may have to fast or avoid caffeine products before your visit. You may also have to stop taking certain medications prior to your test.

What to Expect Before Your Test

Please check our website for the specific test you are having to see if preparation, such as fasting or avoiding caffeine products, is required. Please do not wear jewelry or perfume on the day of your test.

What to Expect During Your Test

During the exam, a medical radiation technologist specialized in nuclear medicine will interview you and start your procedure by administering the appropriate radioactive tracer to you. Most tracers must be given by injection into a vein in your arm or hand or through an intravenous line (IV). For some nuclear medicine procedures the pictures may begin right away and for other types of scans there may be a delay before imaging begins or continues.

What to Expect After Your Test

You may resume normal activities immediately, unless the physician or technologist tells you otherwise. We also suggest that you increase your fluids over the next day to help eliminate any residual tracer used in your procedure.

For some procedures, the radiologists find it useful to have other pictures or X-rays taken after your nuclear medicine scan, to help enhance the diagnostic report that will be sent back to your doctor.

If additional images are required, we will do our best to fit this imaging in before you depart (after your nuclear scan is finished).

Your test will be reviewed by a radiologist (or other specialist like a cardiologist) and a report will be sent to your doctor's office. Please contact your doctor's office for your test results.

FAQS

Will you be travelling after your nuclear medicine procedure?

Please discuss this with the technologist before your test. International security measures have increased and radiation detectors have commonly been installed at airports, international borders, and some major tourist attractions and landmarks. Travelling with supportive documentation declaring your recent nuclear medicine test is advised and may help to avoid potentially lengthy delays.

Is there a chance that you are pregnant or are you breast feeding?

Please discuss this with your doctor or contact our department. If you are breast feeding, there may be special precautions before starting your nuclear medicine exam.

Have you had any other imaging exams recently?

Barium and contrast may "mask" or "block" our ability to take nuclear medicine images so we may have to delay your appointment. If you have had recent x-rays or other imaging exams of the same area, please bring them with you on the day of your nuclear medicine appointment.