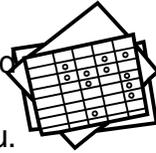


Your scan results

Once the examination is completed the scans will be examined and reported on by a Radiologist who will then send the report to the doctor that referred you. This process can take up to 2 weeks.



Any questions

The staff in the department want your visit to be as pleasant as possible. If you have any questions, fears or doubts do not hesitate to ask a member of staff. It is in their interest as well as yours to ensure that you feel as comfortable as possible



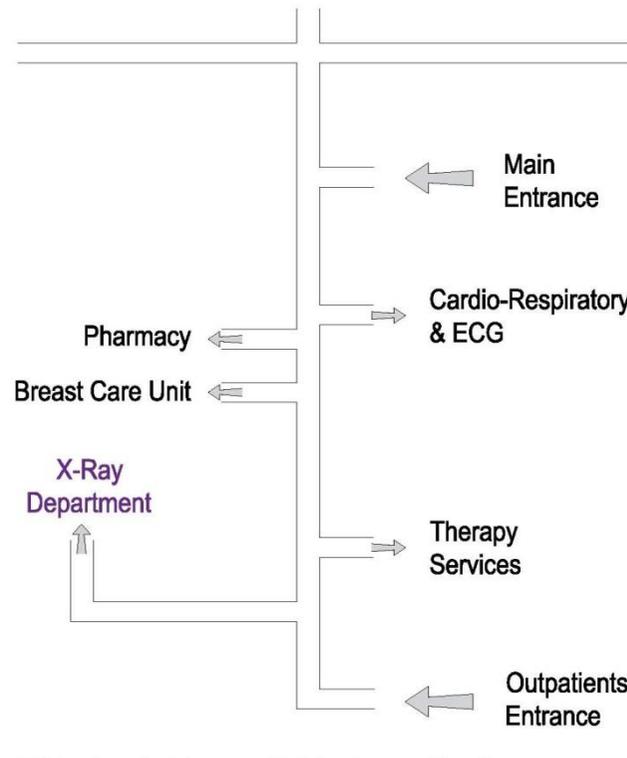
Car Parking

Leighton operates a barrier entry car park system. Charges are displayed and also apply to disabled drivers. If you have trouble finding a space, please press the intercom at the barrier. If you need an ambulance to take you to hospital, please telephone 0345 425 0050 (Freephone). When booking your ambulance transport you will need to explain your mobility needs, as your eligibility to receive patient transport will be assessed against agreed eligibility criteria. You will need to book your ambulance at least one full week in advance before your appointment.

This leaflet is available in audio, Braille, large print and other languages. To request a copy please telephone 01270 278023.

Directions

The CT scanner is located within the X-ray Department at Leighton Hospital.

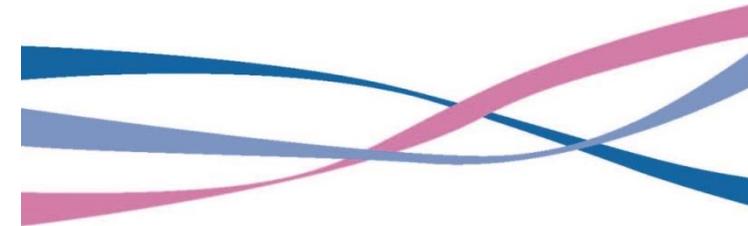


X-Ray (Medical Imaging)
Leighton Hospital
Middlewich Road
CREWE, Cheshire
CW1 4QJ
Direct Line: 01270 278023



Computed Tomography (CT)

Information for patients



Important
Phone line Opening times:

Monday to Friday
9.00am and 5.00pm

Saturday
9.00am – 12 midday

Direct Line: 01270 278023

Computed Tomography (CT)

Your doctor has referred you for a CT scan at Leighton Hospital. CT is an imaging technique that uses x-rays combined with powerful computer technology to produce highly detailed images of the inside of your body.

Private patients will be requested to provide their insurance details and/or method of payment prior to their scan.

Preparing for the CT scan

- Please read carefully **all the information** enclosed – it may contain specific instructions to be followed prior to your scan.
- We advise that you only have a light meal prior to the scan **unless** otherwise stated in your appointment letter.
- You should continue to take any medication prescribed by your Doctor. However if you are diabetic or on medication, please contact the X-ray department for further advice.
- If possible wear loose fitting clothing without metal fasteners.
- You may be asked to get changed into a hospital gown for your scan. Please bring your own dressing gown if you require one.
- You may be asked to fill in a questionnaire if you need glasses please bring them with you

Will it be uncomfortable?

No, you should not feel any pain. You may feel some slight discomfort from having to lie still or having a full bladder for example.

Can you bring a relative or friend?

Yes but for reasons of safety, they will not be able to accompany you into the scan room, except in very special circumstances.

Are there any risks?

A CT scan uses x-rays. Women who are or might be pregnant **must** inform the radiographer **before** the scan. All females between the ages of 11 and 55 years are asked the date of their last menstrual period (LMP). From this information, the radiographer will decide if your scan should be postponed or if it is safe to continue. The amount of radiation used is more than a plain x-ray of the chest or abdomen and is equal to the natural radiation that we receive from the atmosphere over a period of approximately three years. Many CT examinations require you to have an injection of a colourless x-ray dye (contrast medium) usually in a vein in your hand/arm. This is to increase the quality of information obtained from the scan. The injection causes nothing more than a warm feeling passing around your body. Despite these slight risks, your doctor believes it is advisable that you should have the examination, and please do bear in mind there are greater risks from missing a serious disorder by **not** having your scan.

What happens before the scan?

When you arrive you should report to the x-ray reception and you will be directed to the CT waiting area. The procedure for your examination will be explained to you and you may be asked to complete a questionnaire about your previous medical history. Depending on what part of the body we are scanning you may be required to drink a special liquid to highlight your bowel. This preparation may take up to one hour. We may also need to weigh you and measure your height. It is likely that you will have to undress for the procedure you will be shown to a private cubicle where you will be asked to put on the gown provided. You will be able to place your clothes and personal items in a basket, which you will keep with you.

If you require an injection we may place the small intravenous catheter for this before you go into the scan room.

How long will the scan take?

Preparation can take up to one hour. The actual scan can take anywhere between five and 30 mins.

What is the CT scanner like?

The CT scanner is like a large doughnut or polo mint. The radiographer can see, talk and hear you at all times. The room is big, light and air-conditioned.

What happens during the scan?

You will be taken into the scan room and made comfortable lying on the couch. Straps, pads and pillows may be used to help maintain the correct position and keep you still for the scan. You may be given a contrast injection a few seconds before the scan starts. The couch will move slowly so that the part of your body under investigation is within the 'doughnut'. Special lights may be used to ensure that you are properly positioned. The radiographer and assistant will retire to the control room but you will be able to talk to them via an intercom, and they will be watching and listening to you all the time. With a modern CT scanner you will only hear a slight buzzing, clicking and whirring sound as the inside parts of the scanner revolve during the procedure. During the scan you may be asked to hold your breath or not to swallow while the images are being produced. If you do feel any discomfort or apprehension, please tell the radiographer.