

# Having a CT scan at the hospital

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## Information for patients

A CT scan takes pictures of the inside of your body (your bones, organs, and muscles).

Your appointment letter or text will tell you what you need to do before you come to hospital for your scan.

You will have your CT scan in the hospital's X-ray Department. Please ask a member of staff where this is.

When you arrive at the X-ray Department, show the receptionist your appointment letter or text.

You will be asked to sit in the waiting area.

A family member, friend or carer can stay with you in the waiting room. If you need a carer or family member to help you get ready for your scan, please speak to a member of staff.

**Text only**



A member of staff will take you in to the scan room. Your family member, friend or carer cannot go into the scan room with you.

You may be asked to take off your watch, belt, and jewellery.

Your appointment text or letter will tell you if you need a contrast injection before your scan. If you do, a member of staff will put a cannula (a small plastic tube) into your arm. This will stay in place during your scan.

The member of staff will ask you to lie down on a table. You may be asked to hold your breath. You must lie very still.

The member of staff will be in a room next door. They can see you through a window while you have your scan.

If you are worried and want to stop, please tell the member of staff. They can hear you at all times.

The table will move through a big hoop. It takes pictures as it moves. The scan does not hurt. Nothing touches you.

A CT scan does not take long. Most patients are in the room for 15 minutes.

A member of staff will tell you when your scan is finished.

If you had a contrast injection during your scan, the cannula will be removed by a member of staff after your scan.

After your scan, if you had a contrast injection, you must wait in the hospital for 40 minutes.

The contrast injection can make some people feel ill. While you wait, if you

- feel sick
- are sick, or
- get a rash

please tell a member of staff.

If you feel well after your wait, you can go home.

Your results will be given to the doctor who sent you to the hospital for your scan. This doctor will talk to you about your scan results.

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Our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) can help you.

You can ask a question or tell them if you are unhappy about something.

Phone: 01227 78 31 45 The team can phone you back.

Email: [ekh-tr.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ekh-tr.pals@nhs.net)

Post: Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)  
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Ethlebert Road, Canterbury  
CT1 3NG

Created together with people with a communication need, the  
experts by experience