

## ROUTINE CT SCAN OF CHEST, ABDOMEN, AND PELVIS

This scan may include pictures of your chest, abdomen and pelvis. What pictures are taken is decided by your doctor, but all instructions are the same.

## WHAT IS A COMPUTERIZED TOMOGRAPHY (CT) SCAN

A Computerized Tomography (CT) scan is a test that uses X-rays to produce detailed, images (pictures) of the body. CT images of internal organs, bones, soft tissue and blood vessels provide greater detail than traditional X-rays, letting radiologists more easily diagnosis problems.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

### Prior to arrival:

- You will be asked to not eat any solids for 4 hours before your scan. Clear liquids are allowed, if able.
- You may get a reminder call with more detailed information and arrival time information 24-48 hours before your appointment.

### Upon arrival:

- You may be asked to change into a gown and robe to allow easy access for IV starts, if needed. Wearing loose, comfortable clothing with no metal may also be acceptable.
- You will need to remove any metal including jewelry & piercings.
- You will be asked to complete a CT screening questionnaire.

## ORAL CONTRAST

**Water:** You may be asked to arrive 30 minutes early to drink water before your scan to hydrate your system and provide a better view of your organs.

**Oral Contrast:** You may be asked to arrive 1 hour early to drink oral contrast before your scan to help highlight your hollow organs such as your stomach and intestines.

## INTRAVENOUS (IV) CONTRAST

Intravenous (IV) contrast may be used to highlight the blood vessels and organs in your body. This is injected through an IV started in your arm or through an existing central venous access device you may already have (mediport, picc line, etc.). When getting the IV contrast, many people get a metallic taste in their mouth and a warm feeling throughout their body. This goes away as soon as the contrast is finished. If you have an allergy to CT IV contrast, premedication may be needed.

## EXPLANATION

For the CT, you will be asked to lie flat on the CT table which will rise up and move as you are passed through a large circular machine. You may be asked to hold your breath for a short time to lessen movement.

## DURATION

The scan may take between 15 to 30 minutes to complete.

## LAB WORK

If your CT requires IV contrast, you may need blood work (Creatinine/GFR) to check your kidney function and make sure it is safe to give the contrast. The blood work is done before your scan if you have not had any within 30 days. Inpatients require lab work within 24 hours.

## MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

If any of the following apply to you please let your provider know before your appointment or tell a technologist before the start of the exam.

- pregnant (or think you may be pregnant)
- nursing an infant
- have a known or suspected allergy to CT IV contrast

Per Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin Imaging policy, children under 18 must be supervised by a responsible adult, which is not the patient.

Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin is an academic system; students, interns, or residents (doctors) may be involved in your care.

Our main objective is to provide high-quality diagnostic imaging in an environment focused on your comfort and safety.

For more information please visit our website at [www.froedtert.com](http://www.froedtert.com).



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