

# Having a CT radiotherapy planning scan

Cancer Services

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Information for patients

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## What is radiotherapy?

Radiotherapy is the use of high energy radiation to kill diseased cells in the body. It can be used to treat several diseases, but it is used mainly for treating cancer.

## What is a CT radiotherapy planning scan?

A CT planning scan is an X-ray examination that gives more information than a normal X-ray. It produces very detailed images of your organs.

## Why do I need a CT planning scan?

The CT planning scan is used to plan your radiotherapy treatment. You may also need to have other scans to help plan your treatment.

## How can I prepare for my CT planning scan?

There are no special preparation instructions to be followed at home before attending for a CT planning scan and you can eat and drink normally beforehand. Any preparation required will be discussed with you and carried out when you attend your appointment.

Please bring any medication that you are taking with you, including any sprays or inhalers. If you are on medication from your doctor please continue to take it as normal.

## What happens when I attend for the scan?

You will need to come to the Radiotherapy Department on the ground floor of the Osborne Building (Leicester Royal Infirmary) for your planning scan.

If you are having your head and neck treated, you will attend the mould room before your scan to have a special mask (sometimes called a mould) made. This takes about 30 minutes. You will need to wear the mask for your CT planning scan.

**Health information and support is available at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)  
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit [www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk) for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals  
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact [InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)

## **What happens during the scan?**

On arrival, you will be taken to the scanner room where the procedure will be explained to you.

You will be carefully positioned on the scanner table in the position that you will be in for your radiotherapy treatment. Marks will be placed on your skin. Sometimes, and only with your permission, we may make a very tiny permanent skin mark with ink (a tattoo).

The couch will move slowly through the open scanner, you will not feel anything and nothing will touch you. You will be asked to breathe normally and keep as still as possible. The CT scan will take a few minutes but you will be in the examination room for approximately 20 minutes.

It may be necessary to have an injection of a contrast agent (a colourless liquid that shows up on X-rays) into a vein in your arm during the scan. This will be discussed with you when you attend for your appointment.

Occasionally you may need to have a blood test before attending for the scan. If this is the case, a blood form will be sent to you with your appointment letter.

## **How long will it take?**

The CT scan appointment takes about 20 minutes, but we would advise you to allow a total of two hours for this appointment to allow for any preparation that may be required. You may wish to bring something to eat and drink with you, particularly if you have diabetes.

## **What happens after the scan?**

The scan will be used to plan your radiotherapy treatment. This can be quite a complex process and may take up to four weeks. This appointment will be given to you either when you come for your planning scan, or by telephone or post.

The visit to the simulator will allow your treatment plan to be checked. It may also be necessary to do some more tattoos. At this stage you will be given a list of your treatment bookings.

If you have any queries about your next appointment or require an ambulance please telephone the radiotherapy appointments office.

**Telephone: 0116 258 5640**

## Additional information

### Relatives and escorts

You may wish to bring a friend or relative to accompany you when you have your CT scan, although they will not be allowed into the examination room.

### Transport

Hospital car parking is available. Spaces are limited so please allow plenty of time to find a car parking space. Car parking charges apply.

### Bus services to the hospital

Telephone Travel line on 0871 200 22 33 for times and routes.

A Hospital Hopper bus links the three Leicester hospitals, Beaumont Leys Centre, Hamilton Centre and the railway station. Buses run between approximately 6:30 am and 9:00 pm. A charge is payable for this service.

### Macmillan Information and Support Centre

Osborne Building  
Leicester Royal Infirmary  
Leicester  
LE1 5WW

Telephone: 0116 258 6189

(Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 4.30 pm)

Website: [www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/cancerinfo](http://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/cancerinfo)

### University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust

Website: [www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk)

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔  
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل  
જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

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Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email [equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)