

Faster Diagnosis Lung Pathway

Your general practitioner (GP) has referred you onto the Faster Diagnosis Lung Pathway to investigate your symptoms. This is to either rule out cancer or, if confirmed, to enable you to progress to treatment as soon as possible. This leaflet explains what investigations to expect on FD Lung Pathway.

What happens next?

1. Once you are referred onto the pathway, you will be asked to attend the Radiology Department at Royal Berkshire Hospital for a CT scan of your chest (this should be two days after any blood tests so that your results are available).
2. At your initial appointment you **may** have your scan, get it reported and meet with a member of the Respiratory Team for your results.
 - At your initial call you will have been asked if you were able to remain in the hospital for some time to allow this to take place, as the whole process from CT scan to meeting with a member of the Respiratory Team may take several hours so we advise you to bring snacks and a drink with you.
 - If you are unable to wait on the day, please inform staff and a follow-up clinic appointment will be arranged on an alternative day.
If you are unable to be in hospital for several hours, you will be offered a show and go CT scan, Monday – Friday any time between 8.30am and 4.30pm.
3. Sometimes, due to clinical pressures, it may not be possible to see the Respiratory Team on that day within 4-6 hours. If we know this is likely when you visit, you will be able to go home after the scan and be given an alternative early appointment to see the specialist lung nurse / Respiratory Team within a couple of days.

You may want to bring someone with you if receiving test results.

What is a CT scan and why do I need one?

CT stands for Computerised Tomography. The CT scan uses X-rays and a computer to generate detailed, sections of the inside of your body. This allows the consultant radiologist (doctor specialising in diagnostic imaging – X-rays and scans) to look in detail at the internal anatomy of your body in order to write the formal report.

Are there any risks with this test?

Prior to the scan, a CT safety checklist will be completed to discuss any safety concerns / issues or allergy to iodine (the intravenous contrast – dye). As this is only a straightforward, diagnostic procedure, there are no expected risks associated with the scan. The scanner uses ionising radiation (X-rays) to produce the pictures, and the radiographers ensure that the radiation dose you receive is as low as practically possible.

Female patients of a child bearing age

To ensure you are not pregnant we like to scan you within 10 days of the first day of your last period. However, if you are confident that you are not pregnant, your CT scan can fall outside of

this 10-day period as long as it falls within your normal monthly cycle and you are not late for your period. If you have any questions / concerns, you can discuss these with the radiology navigator (radiographer) directly.

What happens during the CT?

The CT scanner consists of an X-ray tube that rotates around your body. You will be moved through the scanner as it takes the pictures. The scan itself is painless and will usually take a few seconds, although the whole procedure will last approximately 10-20 minutes. The only sensation felt during the scan is from the injection we give you (if appropriate). This intravenous iodine contrast injection is designed to show up your internal organs and vessels on the image. For this, we will insert a cannula (flexible plastic tube) into a vein in your lower arm / hand using a small using a small needle. The cannula insertion may be done outside of the scanner room in preparation for your scan. As the contrast is injected, it is normal to feel a warm flush over your body. It can also give the sensation of needing the toilet. If you have the iodine injection, you are encouraged to drink plenty of fluids after the scan to help your kidneys filter and flush out the iodine contrast.

Results

After your CT scan, the results will be reviewed by the specialist consultant alongside your clinical history and other relevant information from your GP.

Next steps

Depending on test results, there are a number of options that the team will discuss with you next.

- You may be referred back to your GP.
- You may get an appointment to attend a specialist lung clinic, or
- A member of the respiratory team may meet you to discuss your results and whether further tests are required

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Your safety and that of NHS staff is very important.

If you have any Coronavirus symptoms (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss or change to sense of smell or taste, shortness of breath, fatigue, headache, sore throat, blocked or runny nose, loss of appetite, nausea or vomiting), **please do a lateral flow test before attending and do not attend if you are positive**. All patients and visitors are asked to wear a face mask during your visit to the hospital.

Further information

www.nhs.uk/conditions/ct-scan/pages/introduction.aspx

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

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Radiology, April 2022. Next review due: April 2024

Compassionate

Aspirational

Resourceful

Excellent