



## About your CT appointment

You have been referred for an CT scan. This guide will tell you about the procedure and help you prepare for the appointment and what will happen afterwards.



## What is a CT scan?

A CT Scan (Computerised Tomography) is a specialised X-Ray examination, which gives clear cross-sectional images of the inside of your body. CT is excellent in demonstrating soft tissue, air, fluid, bone, vessels and all other internal structures of the body.

CT is a non-invasive method of imaging the inside of your body with relative speed and accuracy. New technology allows CT to be painless,

## What is a contrast injection?

The 'contrast' is a radiographic dye, containing iodine, which enhances the visibility of vascular structures and organs during radiographic procedures. Some pathologies, such as cancer, have particularly improved visibility with iodinated contrast.

InHealth uses a non-ionic contrast agent and shortly after the injection,

you may feel a warming sensation throughout the body and sometimes this feeling is more pronounced in the pelvic area.

Prior to the exam, to ensure all precautions with CT examinations involving contrast injections, we ask all patients to fill out a patient safety questionnaire. The radiographer will go over the procedure with you.

## Important Safety Information

If you are or think you maybe pregnant you must inform the Radiographer.

## Before your appointment

For a CT scan involving a contrast injection you should fast for four hours prior to your appointment. You will be told at the time of booking if your scan requires a contrast injection, or if you need to have liquid preparation. Your appointment time should include the time needed to drink the liquid

preparation and it may be up to an hour before your scan is carried out. Diabetic's taking 'Metformin': please advise the radiographer when you book for your scan, as there are some post-procedure care instructions we must go through with you.

### When you arrive

When you arrive for your appointment, you will be greeted by a member of staff. When you meet with the Radiographer you will have time to discuss the details of your procedure and the opportunity to ask any questions you might have.

If you are female and feel you would need a chaperone, you can bring a friend or relative with you.

### The examination

The scan itself is painless.

The CT scanner looks like a big ring called a gantry and is open at both ends with the table that slides very quickly through the middle.

Within the wall of the scanner there is an X-Ray source and detectors. The scanner bed moves quickly through the gantry acquiring many cross sectional pictures of your body which are sent to our control and then processed for our Radiologists to report. If you require a contrast injection it will be administered by a radiologist.

The Radiographer will take you into the scanner room and make sure that you are comfortably positioned on the scanner bed.

You will be asked to lie as still as possible during the examination, to ensure that the scanner

can get a good, clear image. Additionally, the Radiologist may need an injection of a contrast agent during the course of the scan.

As the scanner is open plan and the imaging time very short claustrophobia is rarely a problem.

### What is the radiation dose from a CT scan?

Following guidelines set out in the Ionising Radiation (Medical Exposure) Regulations (IRMER) 2000, exposure to ionising radiation should be kept to a minimum whenever possible.

In all cases, the clinician who refers you for a CT scan will ensure that the benefits provided by the information in the examination outweigh the risks associated with the radiation dose.

### How long does the CT Scan take?

The actual scanning itself depends on the type of scan, but can be as short as a breath hold, from 5-10 seconds. The total length of a CT scan procedure can be between approximately 20 minutes to an hour, depending upon the type of examination, the preparation and postexamination processing.

You should allow around 30 minutes for the whole process.



## How to find us

The London Imaging Centre, 11 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 9ST  
Tel : 020 7467 8800

### By Road

The London Imaging Centre is located nearer Oxford Street at 11-12 Wimpole Street, close to the junction with Queen Anne Street. Parking can be difficult but there are a number of car parks nearby including Cavendish Square and Marylebone Road. There is no parking available at The London Imaging Centre. Congestion charges do apply in this area.

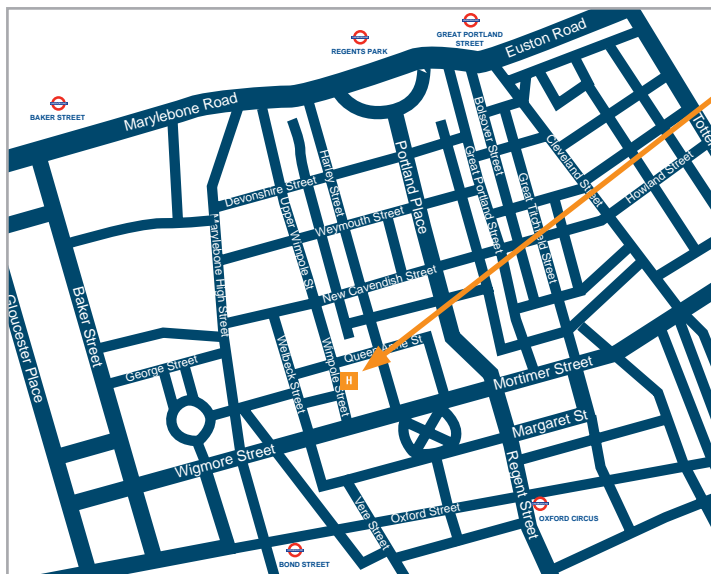
### By Rail

The nearest underground stations are Bond Street (Central & Jubilee lines) and Oxford Street (Central & Victoria lines) both less than 0.5 miles from the centre. The nearest rail station is Marylebone Station (BR & underground connect) which is about 0.8 miles from the centre.

### By Bus

Bus routes serving the Centre are 205, 25, 88, 453 and C2, which will come direct to Oxford Street or very near.





## The London Imaging Centre

### Informed consent

The information contained within this leaflet is intended to provide you with an overview of the examination or treatment that you are to receive. Prior to any medical procedure being carried out, the healthcare professional conducting the procedure will describe the nature of the examination or treatment you are to receive and will detail any risks associated with the procedure. It is your right to be given sufficient information to be able to make an informed decision as to whether you wish to continue with the examination/treatment or to refuse to undergo the procedure.

The nature of some examinations and treatment requires that your consent to continue must be given in writing and a form will be provided for you to sign. Some examinations

may only require your verbal consent. For further information regarding our consent policy, please contact the Centre to which you have been referred.

We take pride in the standard of service which we offer at InHealth. If you do have reason to complain, however, we take your comments seriously and a full complaints procedure is available upon request. Please ask a member of staff at the Centre who will be able to provide you with a copy, alternatively call the **Central Bookings line on 0845 603 0854** for a copy of the policy or to make a complaint. If you are unhappy with our handling of your complaint, you can contact the External Adjudication Secretariat, C/O Independent Healthcare Advisory Services, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford St, London WC1 1DU.



## Appointment Details

Name: .....

Date: .....

Time: .....

Consultant: .....

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### About InHealth Limited

InHealth is a leading provider of diagnostic and imaging servicing operating exclusively in the UK working predominantly within the NHS, but also servicing the needs of private health care providers. We deliver excellent professional services across a range of modalities. We have a key part to play in the provision of high quality healthcare and in the working lives of the professionals within it.

The London Imaging Centre is run by InHealth Limited

InHealth Limited is a company registered in England and Wales (Registered No. 05190234)  
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