

Chest X-ray to CT scan direct pathway

Information for patients referred by their GP

If your chest X-ray has shown something concerning, you may be offered a CT scan straight away. This helps us to find out what's wrong and arrange the next steps as soon as possible.

This leaflet explains what will happen if you are offered a CT scan directly after your chest X-ray. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us using the details on page 3.

Confirming your identity

Before you have a treatment or procedure, our staff will ask you your name and date of birth and check your ID band. If you do not have an ID band we will also ask you to confirm your address. If we do not ask these questions, then please ask us to check. Ensuring your safety is our primary concern.

Chest X-ray results

After reviewing your chest X-ray today, a reporting radiographer or radiologist would like you to have a CT scan.

The radiographer will talk to you about this and answer any questions you may have. If possible, we will arrange the CT scan for you on the same day. If not, we will book another appointment before you leave.

Why have I been asked to have a CT scan?

You need a CT scan because your chest X-ray showed something that needs a closer look (an abnormal X-ray). A CT scan gives us clearer pictures of your lungs and can help us find out what is causing your symptoms.

Having a CT scan quickly helps us find serious problems, like cancer, sooner. Most people with an abnormal X-ray do not have cancer.

Where do I need to go for my appointment?

The radiology team will tell you where to go for your CT scan and can take you to the CT department if you need help.

What is a CT (computerised tomography) scan?

A CT scan uses X-rays to take detailed pictures of your anatomy to see your organs, vessels, bones and tissues more clearly.

Before the scan, we may put a small tube (cannula) in the vein of your hand or arm so that we can give an injection of a special dye (contrast) to see your anatomy clearly.

The dye contains iodine, which very rarely causes an allergic reaction. If you feel pain when the dye is injected, tell the radiographer right away. The dye may give you a warm flush and leaves your body in your urine.

CT scanners use as little radiation as possible. The benefits and risks of having radiation exposure are reviewed for every patient. If you have concerns about the risks, talk to your doctor or radiographer.

Further information is available in our [Computed tomography \(CT\) \(adult patients\) patient information leaflet](#), which will also be shared with you. Visit our website for more information: www.kch.nhs.uk/general-imaging/.



What happens at my CT appointment?

You will have a CT scan of your chest and upper abdomen (tummy). Before any treatment or test, staff will ask your name, date of birth, and address. This is for your safety. We will also ask you some questions about your health. Occasionally we need to take a blood sample to check your kidney function before giving contrast.

When the cannula is inserted, the radiographer will check it is in the right place with some saline (salty water) before the scan starts. During the scan, you will lie on a bed that moves through the scanner. You will enter feet first. You may hear noises as the machine works. You will be asked to raise your arms and hold your breath for a few seconds while we take the pictures.

The appointment usually takes about 15 minutes. You can bring someone with you, but sometimes they may need to wait outside if the waiting area is busy.

How long will I have to wait for the results of my CT scan?

A radiologist will review your scan and write a report. The report will be reviewed by the Respiratory Team.

We will contact you with your results, usually within 5 days. We may call you, write to you, or arrange a clinic appointment.

Who can I contact with queries and concerns?

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact our Lung Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) on the numbers below. You can also leave them a message. Messages are checked regularly and your call will be returned.

King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill Lung CNS

Tel: 020 3299 1452, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Princess Royal University Hospital Lung CNS

Tel: 01689 864713, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Outside of hours or in an emergency:

If the situation is urgent, contact your GP or dial 111.

In an emergency, dial 999 or visit your local Emergency Department.

Please use the space below to write down any questions you have:

MyChart

Our MyChart app and website lets you securely access parts of your health record with us, giving you more control over your care. To sign up or for help, call us on 020 3299 4618 or email kings.mychart@nhs.net. Visit www.kch.nhs.uk/mychart to find out more.

Sharing your information

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has partnered with Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust through the King's Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. We are working together to give our patients the best possible care, so you might find we invite you for appointments at Guy's or St Thomas' hospitals. King's College Hospital and Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trusts share an electronic patient record system, which means information about your health record can be accessed safely and securely by health and care staff at both Trusts. For more information visit www.kch.nhs.uk.

Care provided by students

We provide clinical training where our nursing students get practical experience by treating patients. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you do not want students to be involved in your care. Your treatment will not be affected by your decision.

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you. They can also pass on praise or thanks to our teams.

Tel: **020 3299 4618**

Email: kings.pals@nhs.net

If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact our Interpreting and Accessible Communication Support on 020 3299 4618 or email kings.access@nhs.net