

Diagnostic X-Ray Exams

This instruction sheet has been prepared by Faith Regional Health Services. It includes the basic points of your care. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact them at 402-644-7540.

LET YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER KNOW IF YOU ARE PREGNANT OR MAY BE PREGNANT.

An x-ray machine sends individual x-ray particles through the body. The images are recorded on a computer or film.

- Structures that are dense (such as bone) will block most of the x-ray particles, and will appear white.
- Metal and contrast media (special dye used to highlight areas of the body) will also appear white.
- Structures containing air will be black.
- Muscle, fat, and fluid will appear as shades of gray.

What happens during your exam?

- You may be asked to hold your breath or not move for a second or two when the images are being taken.
- You need to stay still when you are having an x-ray. Motion can cause blurry images.
- How you are positioned depends on the type of x-ray being done. Several different x-ray views may be needed.

How to prepare for the exam:

- X-rays are painless. However, some body positions needed during an x-ray may cause temporary discomfort. Your Registered Radiologic Technologist will take every precaution to keep you as comfortable as possible during your exam.
- Before the x-ray, tell your health care team if you are pregnant, or may be pregnant.
- Metal can cause unclear images. You will need to remove all jewelry, including body piercing, and may need to wear a hospital gown.
- How the test is done depends on the specific type of x-ray.

Additional Information:

- The procedure is performed at FRHS West Campus Radiology Department.
- Enter the hospital through the main lobby and check in at the admitting desk.
- If it's after hours enter through the emergency entrance and check in with registration personnel.

- General diagnostic x-ray exams do not need to be scheduled and will be done as soon as possible. Emergency exams may cause a slight delay.

Results of your test may take 24 to 48 hours to reach your provider and will be discussed with you at your next scheduled office appointment. If you do not have an appointment scheduled and have not heard from your provider, please contact them after 48 hours to set up an appointment to discuss your results.