

COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY (CT)

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

- The procedure is performed at FRHS West Campus Radiology Department.
- Enter the hospital through the main lobby and check in at the admitting desk 30 minutes prior to appointment time. Check in 60 minutes prior to CT exam time if **lab work** is needed or if you need to be **pretreated** for IV contrast allergy. Please have a driver available if pretreat is needed, as you will not be permitted to drive for 12 hours.
- After registration is completed you will meet with the CT clerk. They will complete the necessary paperwork. If contrast is to be used an IV will be started.

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

CT Patient information:

Computer Tomography (CT) allows doctors to diagnose and treat a variety of conditions earlier and faster. CT combines X-ray equipment with computer technology. This combination allows your physician to see your organs, tissues, vessels and bones. It differs from regular X-ray in that it creates images of thin cross sectional planes of your body

CT scans are designed to obtain the MOST information with the least possible radiation exposure. Our modern CT scanner is designed with consistent dose reduction software.

Preparing for your test

If your healthcare provider has ordered a CT with IV contrast you will need a Creatinine level drawn within 30 days of the CT scan if you are:

- Over the age of 60 years old.
- You are diabetic.
- Have a history of renal disease, or one kidney.
- Have a history of chemo or radiation therapy.

Wear comfortable clothing that does not contain any metal (zippers or snaps for example), since metal interferes with the image quality.

Unless your doctor tells you otherwise, take your medications as usual but with minimal water prior to test.

Pediatric patients

Pediatric patient should be able to lay still in increments of 10-15 seconds. We request small children come sleep deprived. If the child sleeps through the test it will aid in the reduction of motion.

During your exam:

A typical CT exam will last approximately 15 minutes. The length of your scan depends on the type of exam your doctor has ordered. Before your exam begins, the technologists will help you onto the scanning table. Once you are comfortable, the technologist will move you into the scanner for your exam. It's important that you remain as still as possible throughout the exam; since even slight movement blurs the resulting images. You may be given some breathing instruction as you pass through the scanner. If you have questions or need assistance at any time, you can communicate with the technologist through an audio system. The CT technologist will monitor you visually throughout your exam.

Contrast:

Depending on the examination, a contrast material may be used. Contrast will help highlight certain parts of your body. The use of contrast depends on what exams your healthcare provider orders. Contrast can be dispensed in different ways oral, IV, or rectal. A combination of both oral and IV are the most common pathways of administration. When IV contrast is used; it will be common for the contrast to cause a temporary warm flush feeling, wave of nausea, or a metallic taste in the mouth. If your CT scan is ordered with oral contrast, your health care provider may provide you some prep to drink prior to your scan or you may be instructed to pick up your prep at the FRHS Radiology Office. Instructions for drinking the oral prep will be provided. If you have any questions regarding your scan or prep please contact the provider's office or the FRHS Radiology Department.

What happens after the examination?

- If an IV was needed for your exam it will be removed following your CT.
- The CT staff will provide you with discharge instruction if IV contrast was used for the exam.

The results from your test will be interpreted by a Radiologist within 24 hours for your provider to discuss with you at your next scheduled office appointment.