

Nuclear Medicine Information For Patients Leaving The Country

Should you have any questions regarding this please contact us on the appropriate telephone number below between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday:

Eastbourne Hospital Appointments – Tel: 0300 1314797
Conquest Hospital Appointments – Tel: 0300 1315139

Why do I need this advice?

The government has recently installed very sensitive radiation detectors at ports and airports. There is a small chance that, for a short time after your visit to the Nuclear Medicine department, the very low levels of radioactivity left in your body may be enough to set off these detectors. This letter is to explain to the officials at the port or airport that you have had a Nuclear Medicine examination and should save you being delayed.

What do I need to take with me?

Please take your appointment letter and this leaflet. Airport staffs have been told about Nuclear Medicine patients and these should be all you need.

What should I say?

Just tell the staff that you have had a Nuclear Medicine examination and show them this leaflet and your appointment letter. The paragraph below titled "Government advice" is an official form of words that they will be expecting to see.

Government advice

"It has come to our attention that there are extremely sensitive radiation detectors in place in some train stations, airports and seaports around the world. These monitors can detect extremely small quantities of radiation and it is just possible that, until the radioactivity from this test has completely left your body, you may trigger one of these detectors. In the unlikely event that this occurs, there is no reason to be concerned. Customs officials who operate these types of detectors are experienced in understanding what the detector has picked up, and after asking you a few simple questions and conducting a brief non-intrusive examination with a hand held detector, will let you pass on your way as soon as possible. Different countries have different procedures and some may wish to see your appointment letter as part of this process. If you are planning to travel in the near future it is recommended you carry this letter with you. Please ask a member of the department staff for advice on how long your body is likely to retain traces of the radioactivity, and therefore whether carrying your letter will be necessary."

Nuclear Medicine Department Use Only

Patient Name

Date of Birth

Procedure

Isotope/Activity

Date

Consent

Although you consent for this treatment, you may at any time after that withdraw such consent. Please discuss this with your medical team.

Sources of information

British Nuclear Medicine Society (BNMS)

Important information

The information in this leaflet is for guidance purposes only and is not provided to replace professional clinical advice from a qualified practitioner.

Your comments

We are always interested to hear your views about our leaflets. If you have any comments, please contact the Patient Experience Team – Tel: 0300 131 4731 or by email at: esh-tr.patientexperience@nhs.net

Hand hygiene

The Trust is committed to maintaining a clean, safe environment. Hand hygiene is very important in controlling infection. Alcohol gel is widely available at the patient bedside for staff use and at the entrance of each clinical area for visitors to clean their hands before and after entering.

Other formats

If you require any of the Trust leaflets in alternative formats, such as large print or alternative languages, please contact the Equality and Human Rights Department.

Tel: 0300 131 4500 Email: esh-tr.AccessibleInformation@nhs.net

After reading this information are there any questions you would like to ask? Please list below and ask your nurse or doctor.

Reference

The following clinicians have been consulted and agreed this patient information:

Dr Emma Owens, Consultant Radiologist, ESHT

Dr David Sallomi, Consultant Radiologist, ESHT

The directorate group that have agreed this patient information leaflet:

Diagnostics, Anaesthetics and Surgery Division

Next review date: September 2022

Responsible clinician/author: Christopher Salt, Nuclear Medicine Modality Manager

© East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust – www.esht.nhs.uk