

## EXAMINATION DETAILS

# Nuclear Medicine

Nuclear medicine imaging is used to identify and diagnose many different kinds of diseases, often in their earliest stages, as it provides unique information that cannot be obtained using other imaging methods.

### What to Expect During Your Appointment



### IV And Radiotracer

If necessary, an intravenous (IV) catheter will be inserted into a vein in your hand or arm.

The radiotracer may be injected intravenously, swallowed or inhaled as a gas depending on your exam. Radiotracers take seconds to days to travel and accumulate the area being studied. As a result, some imaging may be conducted several days after receiving the radiotracer.

### Positioning For Imaging

The camera may rotate, stay still or be very close to your body to take images. Depending on the camera and images required, you may be asked to stay in one position or change positions.

### Remaining Still

Help us ensure picture clarity by remaining still. If you are claustrophobic or staying still for the exam will cause you pain, you should inform the technologist before your exam begins.

### Length Of Exam

This exam takes between 20 minutes to several hours. Some may be conducted over several days.

### Get Your Results

Our center will contact your physician once your images are produced. Only your physician can discuss your results with you.

### Common Nuclear Medicine Applications

Physicians use radionuclide imaging procedures to visualize the structure and function of an organ, tissue, bone or system within the body.

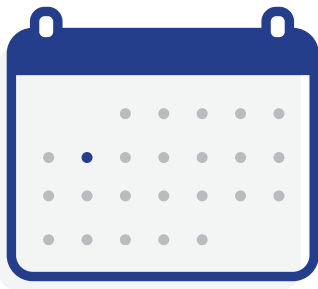
- Assess damage to the heart following a heart attack
- Scan lungs for respiratory and blood flow problems
- Evaluate bones for fractures, infection and arthritis
- Detect the early onset of neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's disease



## EXAMINATION PREPARATION

It is extremely important that you follow these instructions for your exam.

### How to Prepare For Your Appointment



#### Specific Instructions

You will receive specific instructions based on the type of nuclear medicine exam you will be undergoing.

#### Wearing Of Accessories

You will be asked to remove all jewelry, glasses, hearing aids, hair pins, and other metallic objects. We provide you with your own locker for your belongings. You may also be asked to remove dentures and wigs.

#### Taking Medications

Certain medications or procedures may interfere with the requested exam. It is important to inform your physician and technologist of any medications you are taking, including vitamins and herbal supplements.

#### Clothing For The Exam

For your convenience, please dress appropriately. Consider wearing comfortable clothing that does not have any zippers, clasps, or metallic decoration. You may be asked to wear a cloth gown.

### Alert Your Physician or An Akumin Staff Member

- You should alert your physician or an Akumin staff member, if you have any metallic implants
- Women should always inform their physician and technologist if they are breastfeeding or possibly pregnant
- If you suffer from claustrophobia and may need a mild sedative
- If you will have problems staying still for the exam as it may cause you pain
- Are taking any medications, including vitamins and herbal supplements
- Have any allergies, recent illnesses or other medical conditions

