

Your Appointment is on _____ at _____ AM/PM
Day Date
Location for the test _____ Questions? Call _____

What is a CT Scan?

A CT (Computed Tomography) scan or CAT Scan is a diagnostic procedure that uses a combination of x-rays and computer technology to provide images both vertically and horizontally, also called “slices”. CT scans may be done with or without contrast. There are two different kinds of contrast, either given orally or by an intravenous (IV) line. The use of contrast allows the organ or structure to be imaged more clearly.

Your instructions

- Please inform your doctor’s office if you have any allergies to seafood, iodine or if you have ever had a reaction to contrast dye.
- If you are pregnant, or think you may be pregnant, please notify your physician.
- For abdominal or pelvic CT scans, patients must drink oral contrast. Your doctor’s office will instruct you to come to the St. Mary’s Community Hospital to pick it up. You must obtain the contrast at least one day prior to your scheduled test. The instructions will be included with the contrast.
 - Contrast and directions on how to take contrast are available at St. Mary’s Community Hospital between the hours of 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- You may have lab drawn prior to the test to check kidney function.

What you can expect

- When you arrive for your CT scan, you will be asked to remove any clothing, jewelry or any objects that contain metal and might interfere with the scan.
- An IV line may be started in your hand or arm.
- You will be lying on a table, which will slide into a large circular opening in the scanning machine.
- It is important you remain very still during the scan. Motion does interfere with the quality of the images. You may also be prompted to hold your breath during portions of the exam to reduce motion.
- The radiologist will review the exam and dictate the results. These results will be shared with your primary care provider who will explain the results to you.
- The length of a scan is approximately 15 - 30 minutes.

OTHER NOTES/INSTRUCTIONS _____

See reverse side for specific test instructions

Your specific test is checked below. Please follow specific instructions for the test.

_____CT Abdomen/Pelvis

- If taking any drugs containing metformin, do not take medication the day of test and 48 hours after the test
- Nothing to eat or drink after midnight
- Contrast—follow directions given with the contrast
- If lab needs to be drawn prior to scan, please arrive 30 minutes early or you can stop by the hospital lab a day prior to the exam

_____CT Urogram(Abdomen/Pelvis)

- If taking any drugs containing metformin, do not take medication the day of test and 48 hours after the test
- No oral contrast is used, IV contrast is used
- Nothing to eat or drink after midnight – clear liquids – water only
- If lab needs to be drawn, please arrive 30 minutes early or the day prior to the exam

_____CT Angiogram

- If taking any drugs containing metformin, do not take medication the day of test and 48 hours after the test
- No diet restrictions
- Please arrive 10 minutes early
- If lab needs to be drawn, please arrive 30 minutes early or the day prior to the exam

_____CT Chest

- If taking any drugs containing metformin, do not take medication the day of test and 48 hours after the test
- No diet restrictions
- If lab needs to be drawn please arrive one hour early or the day prior to the exam

_____CT Cervical Spine, CT Lumbar Spine, CT Thoracic Spine

- Please arrive 10 minutes early
- No contrast needed

_____CT Head

- If taking any drugs containing metformin, do not take medication the day of test and 48 hours after the test
- Please arrive 10 minutes early
- If lab needs to be drawn please arrive 30 minutes early

_____CT Sinus

- No diet restrictions
- Please arrive 10 minutes early

_____CT Joints (Ankle, Elbow, Foot, Hand, Knee, Shoulder, Wrist)

- No IV contrast used, no restrictions, scans take 15 minutes each
- Please arrive 10 minutes early

_____CT Facial bones (Temporal bones, IAC, TMJ)

- Please arrive 10 minutes early, no diet restrictions