

Computed Tomography (CT)

Computed tomography (CT) is a test that combines x-rays and computer scans. The result is a detailed picture that can show problems with soft tissues (such as the lining of your sinuses), organs (such as your kidneys, brain or lungs), and bones. This test must be scheduled with Central Scheduling (630-856-7070).

Before Your Test

- You will be contacted by a screener from the radiology department prior to your test. They will ask you a number of health related questions, in order to assess your body's ability to manage the IV contrast and reason for your test. Be sure to mention the medications you take and ask if it is okay to take them before the test.
- If instructed, stop eating and drinking 4 hours before your CT.
- If instructed, drink **contrast** (a liquid that improves the image) 8 hours before your CT.
- The test may take 10 minutes to 2 hours, depending on whether contrast is used and the part of the body being scanned.
- Arrive at Out Patient Registration about 30 minutes prior to your exam.
- When you arrive in CT, you may be asked to change into a hospital gown.

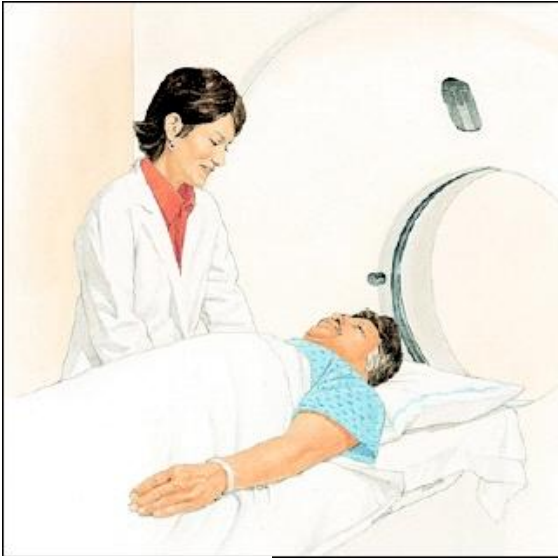
During the test, relax and remain as still as you can.

Tell the technologist if:

- You have allergies or kidney problems
- You take diabetes medication
- You are pregnant or think you may be
- You ate or drank anything before the test

During Your Test

- You may be given contrast through an intravenous (IV) line or by injection.
- You will lie on a table. The table slides into the CT scanner.
- The technologist will ask you to hold your breath for a few seconds a number of times during your scan.



After Your Test

- You can go back to your normal diet and activities right away. Any contrast will pass naturally through your body within a day.
- Before leaving, you may need to wait briefly while your images are being reviewed.
- You will need to contact your doctor for the test results.