

## DEPARTMENT OF RADIOLOGY

The leaflet tells you about having an X-ray. It explains what is involved and what the possible risks are. It is not meant to replace an informed discussion between you and your doctor but can act as a starting point for such discussions. If you have any questions about the procedure, please ask the Doctor or healthcare professional who has referred you for the test, or the department which is going to perform it.

### **The Radiology department**

Radiologists are doctors specially trained to interpret the images and carry out more complex examinations. Radiographers are highly trained professionals and carry out X-rays and other imaging procedures. A Radiographer will perform your X-ray, with a Radiologist or Reporting Radiographer interpreting the image afterwards.

### **What is an X-ray?**

An X-ray is a picture of the internal structures of the body produced by exposure to a controlled source of X-rays. Images are recorded in digital form, shown on a computer screen.

### **Are there any risks?**

There are risks involved with X-rays, but a plain X-ray uses a small amount of radiation, usually equivalent to that which we all receive from the atmosphere over a period of days to years (depending upon the area being X-rayed).

Patients who are, or might be pregnant, **must** inform the Radiographer. Depending on which body part is to be X-rayed, the Radiographer will discuss with you whether it is appropriate for you to have the X-ray. They may ask that you have a pregnancy test.

### **Are you required to make any special preparations?**

No. However, please notify the Radiology department if you have had a similar X-ray recently or if you are or might be pregnant.

### **Can you bring a relative/friend?**

Yes, but for reasons of safety, they will not be able to accompany you into the examination room, except in very special circumstances or in the case of young children.

### **When you arrive**

You should go to the reception desk in the on Level 2, East Block, after which you will be shown where to wait until collected by a Radiographer or other member of staff.

The procedure for your examination will be explained to you. For certain X-ray examinations, you will be asked to undress and/or remove jewellery. You will be shown to a private cubicle where you will be asked to put on the gown provided. You will be asked to keep your clothes with you. Depending on what part of your body is being X-rayed, you may also be asked to remove your glasses, dentures or piercings as well.

### **What happens during the X-ray?**

The Radiographer will first ask you your date of birth and address to confirm your identity. They will give you instructions throughout the examination and position you in order to take a number of images. Although the Radiographer will go behind a screen, you will be seen and heard at all times. The X-ray should not be uncomfortable or painful.

### **How long will it take?**

This will vary, depending upon the body part being examined and the complexity of the images requested, in order to obtain diagnostic images. Waiting times will also vary, depending upon whether you have a booked appointment or not, and the number/type of clinics in the hospital.

### **Are there any side-effects?**

No known short term side effects

### **When will you get the results?**

The images will be examined after your visit by a Radiologist or reporting Radiographer. A written report on the findings will be sent to your referring Doctor or healthcare professional. Please discuss the findings of your X-ray with your Doctor. If you have been sent from clinic as a walk-in patient, your hospital doctor will discuss the findings of the images with you directly.

### **Finally**

Some of your questions should have been answered by this leaflet but remember that this is only a starting point for discussion about your treatment with the Doctors/healthcare professionals looking after you. Make sure you are satisfied that you have received enough information about the procedure.

### **Access to Radiology**

How to find us:	<b>To access Radiology, enter via the East Outpatients entrance (Level 2) and follow signs to Radiology.</b> (more information will be on your appointment letter). For appointments at Cromer Hospital, enter via the Minor Injuries/Radiology entrance and follow signs to Radiology. You can find more information at: <a href="http://www.nnuh.nhs.uk">www.nnuh.nhs.uk</a>
Hospital transport:	To enquire about hospital transport telephone 0333 240 4100
Contact details:	<b>Telephone:</b> 01603 286048 (Outpatients) / 01603 286544 (GP patients) <b>Email:</b> plain.film@nnuh.nhs.uk cromer.radiology@nnuh.nhs.uk <b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.nnuh.nhs.uk">www.nnuh.nhs.uk</a>