

# Patient Information

## Computed Tomography (CT Scan)

### **What is Computed Tomography?**

Computed Tomography (CT) uses an x-ray machine and advanced computer programs to create two and three dimensional images of your body. CT is an essential imaging modality which utilises the latest and most advanced medical technology to detect and assist with the diagnosis of many conditions.

### **What preparation is required?**

Preparations, if required, can include being well hydrated, fasting for two hours prior to your scan or possible blood tests. Several CT examinations require preparation however one of our friendly Customer Service Team members will inform you of any specific preparation required for your CT scan at the time of your booking. Please see below an example of why specific preparation is required for certain body regions.

### **Abdominal and Pelvic CT**

Depending on the clinical details provided by your referring doctor, some abdominal and pelvic CT scans may require you to arrive at our Qscan clinic 75 minutes prior to your actual scan time. This is to ensure that you have sufficient time to drink 1 litre of concentrated fluid (oral contrast) prior to the commencement of your scan. The purpose of oral contrast is to better demonstrate the stomach and bowel.

\*If you are pregnant or think that you may be pregnant, please inform the Customer Service Team member at the time of booking your appointment as alternative medical imaging may need to be arranged.

### **What happens during your CT scan?**

Metal objects such as watches, keys, coins and jewellery will show up on the CT scan, affecting the images and therefore will need to be removed. You may be provided with a gown to wear instead of your own clothes, as some materials and prints will show up on the CT scan.

You will be asked to lie on a long table that will move through the doughnut shaped CT scanner. The CT scanner is not an enclosed tunnel and for the majority of examinations your head will remain outside of the machine.

It is important to remain still and follow the specific instructions given to you at the start of your scan. You may be required to hold your breath for 5 -10 seconds at various stages throughout your examination to help with image quality.

### **How long will the CT scan take?**

Timing of your scan will depend on the examination you are having. The actual scan may only take a matter of seconds, however more time is allowed for positioning you on the CT table, ensuring your comfort as well as providing you with instructions before beginning the examination.

Most examinations take no more than 5 – 20 minutes and you will be able to talk to the Qscan CT staff at all times, should you have any questions.

### **What is the radiation dose?**

All CT scans are performed using the lowest radiation dose possible. Every Qscan CT scanner utilises advanced dose saving technology to optimise low dose scanning techniques.

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### **How much will the CT scan cost?**

Our Customer Service Team will be able to advise you of all costs involved with your CT scan including any out of pocket cost before your scan. Many CT scans are entitled to be bulk-billed, provided that all Medicare eligibility requirements have been met.

### **What can I get my results?**

The CT images obtained are digitally recorded. At Qscan, a subspecialty trained Radiologist interprets the images and provides a report for your doctor within 24 hours. You will be able to collect your images on the day or if your doctor accepts deliveries, our Qscan Couriers can deliver these directly. You may need to make a follow up appointment to discuss the results with your referring practitioner.

### **Where can I go for a CT Scan?**

Qscan Radiology Clinics have a range of convenient clinics located throughout South-East Queensland including: Annerley, Burleigh Waters, Carindale, Cleveland, Everton Park, Mater Private Clinic, Mermaid Waters, Redcliffe, Southport and Windsor.

For further details please call one of our friendly Qscan staff on **1300 177 226** or visit us at: [qscan.com.au](http://qscan.com.au)