

NUCLEAR MEDICINE

Nuclear medicine uses small amounts of radioactive tracers to image different systems in the body.

Typically, these radioactive tracers are injected into the body through a vein where they travel to the part of the body being imaged.

Nuclear medicine exams are offered at our Red Deer Main location.

Covered by Alberta Health Care

Referrals are necessary for all bookings

Exam Duration Varies: See below

PATIENT PREPARATION

All Scans

- ✓ Dress comfortably, with loose easy to remove clothing.
- ✗ Avoid clothing with metal fasteners and zippers

Bone Scan

- ✓ Drink 500 ml (2 cups) of water just prior to your appointment time. You may empty your bladder.
- ✗ If you have renal impairment **DO NOT** drink additional fluids. You may empty your bladder.
- ✓ You will receive an injection of a radioactive tracer and be asked to return anywhere from **2½ to 4 hours after the injection.**

When you return, imaging takes **45 minutes to 1 hour** to complete.

HIDA Scan

- ✗ **Do not** eat or drink a minimum of **4 hours prior** to your appointment time.
- ✓ At the time of booking you may be asked to discontinue some medications.
- ✓ You will receive an injection of radioactive tracer and images will be taken over a period of time.

This exam usually takes **1½ to 2 hours** to complete, but on occasion can take up to **4 hours.**

MUGA Scan

- ✓ There is no special preparation for this exam.
- ✓ You will receive **2 injections**, with a **20-30 minute** waiting period between them.

Imaging begins after the second injection and usually takes **45 minutes to 1 hour** to complete.

Parathyroid Scan

- ✓ There is no special preparation for this exam.
- ✓ Please inform us if you have had prior surgery in the neck area.
- ✓ You will receive an injection of a radioactive tracer. The first set of images are taken shortly after the injection.
- ✓ The second set of images are taken approximately **2 hours after the injection.**
- ✓ Each set of images can take up to **1¼ hours.**

Total time to complete the exam is about **3 hours.**

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING YOUR EXAM:

-  You will check in at the reception area in the basement. (Access north side of the building). Please arrive 5 minutes early.
-  A technologist will call you by name and take you to the nuclear medicine department.
-  The technologist will ask you a series of questions relevant to the exam being done.
-  The technologist will explain the procedure and the timing of your exam.

AFTER YOUR EXAM:

-  You will be free to go.

CAMIS strives to have results sent to your referring doctor **as soon as possible**. In some cases, exams may require consultation, which can delay reporting. Rest assured, our team works carefully to ensure your results are accurate and communicated promptly to support your care.