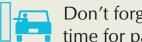
# ON THE DAY OF YOUR **APPOINTMENT**

Please report to the **Nuclear Medicine** Department 15 minutes prior to your appointment time.

> Nuclear Medicine, Level 0 **Marian Wing Charlton Campus**



Don't forget to allow time for parking.

If you have any questions or need to cancel your appointment please call: 905-521-6095

# **QUESTIONS:**


ST. JOSEPH'S HEALTHCARE HAMILTON

# Getting Ready for a **Bone Scan**

Questions, Answers and Preparation Information for Patients

St. Joseph's Healthcare & Hamilton

## NUCLEAR MEDICINE | Getting Ready for a Bone Scan

#### **How Nuclear Medicine Works?**

Nuclear Medicine examinations are different from x-rays. X-rays show what your body structure looks like. Nuclear Medicine examinations show how your body's organs are actually working. First you swallow, inhale, or are injected with a substance called a radioactive tracer. This substance travels to the part of the body we want to examine. It gives off energy waves called gamma rays. A special camera builds these rays into a picture. We can find very specific problems by looking at these pictures

#### What is a bone scan for?

A bone scan shows us how the metabolism of your bones is working.

#### What is this test like?

First, we inject a small amount of radioactive tracer into your arm or hand. We take pictures at this time, depending on why you are having the test. You leave and come back 2 to 3 hours later. This gives your bones time to absorb the tracer.



While you are waiting, you should drink 4-6 cups of fluid and empty your bladder often. This helps to flush out any extra tracer. When

you return later, you lie on a scanning bed and we take pictures. This takes 30-60 minutes

## For female patients

If there is any chance that you are pregnant, tell the technologist before you are injected with the tracer.

# What happens after the test?

There are no known side effects from this test. You can go back to your normal activities once the test is over. The report is sent to your doctor.

# How can you prepare for the test?

You do not have to do anything to prepare for this test.

## **QUESTIONS:**
