

# Information for those accompanying patients during X-rays / scans

## Radiology

Information for patients and carers

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## Why do I need to stay in the X-ray or scan room?

Sometimes patients may need additional support. This includes young children or adults who need help. We only ask you to stay when it is when it helps carry out the examination. For any tests that use radiation we will only do this when it is essential.

## Are there any risks from the radiation?

X-rays and scans are always done using the minimum amount of radiation possible. Radiation occurs naturally in the environment (such as in the ground and rocks). Everyone is exposed to small amounts every day.

The amount of radiation a patient receives in scan depends on the type of test.

It can be equal to a few days or a few years of natural background radiation. The machine used for the X-ray or scan focuses radiation on a very small area on the patient's body. You will receive much less radiation than the patient. The amount you will receive is very small.

## Why don't staff stay in the room?

Staff work with radiation all day. If they stayed in the room, they would get too much radiation. To stay safe, they stay behind the screen or in a separate control room during X-rays and scans.

## How do we keep you safe?

- We always ask people if they are pregnant. An unborn baby is more sensitive to radiation. If you are pregnant you cannot stay in the room.
- We give you a radiation monitoring badge (the same as the ones worn by our staff). This badge measures the amount of radiation you receive.
- You wear a heavy lead gown. This reduces the amount of radiation reaching your body.
- We will ask you to sign a form. This helps us keep a record of who was in the room during the X-ray or scan.

## Further information

If you have any questions or concerns, please call us on **01925 662731**.