

Computed tomography, more commonly known as a CT or CAT scan, is a diagnostic medical test that produces multiple images of the inside of the body. CT images of internal organs, bones, soft tissue, and blood vessels typically provide greater detail than traditional x-rays. Radiologists can more easily diagnose problems such as cancers, cardiovascular disease, infectious disease, and musculoskeletal disorders with CT.

## HOW TO PREPARE FOR A CT

To prepare for your exam, please:

- If you are having a scan of your abdomen or pelvis:
  - **Arrive 1 hour before your appointment time**
  - You may also be asked to drink a contrast agent prior to your scan
- You may be asked to remove metal objects, including jewelry
- Arrange for someone to watch your children in the Waiting Room during your exam; you may not bring children into the exam room.

In addition, for any CT ordered with IV Contrast:

- Clear liquids only for 4 hrs. prior to the exam
- Lab work (Creatinine blood test) required within 8 weeks for patients:
  - Aged 60 or Older
  - Diabetes
  - History of Renal Insufficiency
  - History of Hypertension Requiring Medical Therapy
  - History of Kidney Transplant or Single Kidney
  - History of Renal Cancer or Renal Surgery
  - History of Multiple Myeloma

Labs may be performed at a convenient HMA location 48+ hours in advance of appointment. If labs are performed on day of DI appointment, they must be performed at the 222 Medical Office Building *at least* 1.5 hours prior to DI appointment (staff should mark STAT).

The technologist will be happy to answer all of your questions before your exam.