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Having an X-Ray

Information for patients

www.claremont-hospital.co.uk



Claremont Private Hospital was awarded an overall rating of 'Outstanding' in 2017.

The leaflet tells you about having an x-ray. It explains what is involved and what the possible risks are. It is not meant to replace informed discussion between you and your doctor, but can act as a starting point for such discussions.

The Imaging Department

The Imaging Department may also be called the x-ray or Radiology Department.

It is the facility in the hospital where radiological examinations of patients are carried out, using a range of equipment, such as a CT (Computed Tomography) scanner, an ultrasound machine and an MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) scanner.

Radiologists are doctors specially trained to interpret the images and carry out more complex examinations. They are supported by Radiographers who are highly trained professionals and carry out x-rays and other imaging procedures.

What is an x-ray?

An x-ray is a picture of the internal structures of the body produced by exposure to a controlled source of x-rays and kept in digital form, and shown on a computer screen.

Are there any risks?

There are risks involved with x-rays, but a plain x-ray uses a small amount of radiation, equivalent to that which we all receive from the atmosphere over a period of two or three days.

Female patients who are, or might be pregnant, must inform the radiographer, who will cover the lower abdomen or pelvis with a lead apron, as the foetus is more sensitive to radiation.

You should not worry about the radiation from the x-ray, as your doctor feels it is necessary to investigate a potential problem.

Are you required to make any special preparations?

No. However, please notify the radiology department if you have had a similar x-ray recently or if you are a woman who is or might be pregnant.

What happens during the x-ray?

You will be taken into the x-ray room where you will stand against a frame or asked to sit or lie down on a table. Although the radiographer will go behind a screen, you will be seen and heard at all times.

You will be asked to stay still and sometimes to take a deep breath in and hold it for a few seconds.

Who will you see?

For some scans we need to give you a small injection of x-ray dye which outlines the blood vessels. You will be asked some questions prior to this. It will make you feel warm for a couple of minutes.

Who will I see?

You will be cared for by a Radiographer and your images will be examined and reported on by a Consultant Radiologist.

When will you get the results?

The images will be examined after your visit and a written report on the findings sent to your referring doctor.

If you have any questions regarding any of the advice included in this leaflet please do not hesitate to contact the Imaging Department on 0114 263 2177