

## Who can I contact if I have a problem when I get home?

If you experience any problems related to your surgery or admission once you have been discharged home.

Please feel free to contact 4A, 4B or 4C ward for advice from the nurse in charge.

They will assist you via the telephone, advise you return to your GP or ask you to make your way to the ED department at Whiston Hospital depending upon the nature of your concern.

**4A Ward – 0151 430 1420**

**4B Ward – 0151 430 1637**

**4B Ward – 0151 430 1643**

Whiston Hospital  
Warrington Road,  
Prescot, Merseyside, L35 5DR  
Telephone: 0151 426 1600



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## CT Scan Information

This leaflet can be made available  
in alternative languages / formats on request.

如有需要，本传单可提供其他语言/版式  
此單張的其他語言/格式版本可按要求提供

Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać udostępniona  
w innych językach/formatach.

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## What is a CT scan?

A computerized tomography (CT) scan uses X-rays and a computer to create detailed images of the inside of the body.

CT scans are sometimes referred to as CAT scans or computed tomography scans. These scans are carried out by specially trained operators called radiographers.

## When CT scans are used?

CT scans can produce detailed images of many structures inside the body, including the internal organs, blood vessels and bones.

## Preparing for a CT scan

Your appointment time will be given to you by the nurse with full instructions of anything you need to do to prepare for your scan. You may also be advised to avoid eating anything for several hours before your appointment, to help ensure that clear images are taken.

## Before having a CT scan

Before having the scan, you may be given a special contrast (dye) to help improve the quality of the images. This may be swallowed in the form of a drink, passed into your bottom (enema) both on the ward and then once in the department you may have contrast injected into a blood vessel via your venflon.

Tell the radiographer if you feel anxious or claustrophobic about having the scan. They can give you advice to help you feel calm and can arrange for you to have a sedative (medication to help you relax) if necessary.

Before the scan starts, you may be asked to remove your clothing and put on a gown. You will also be asked to remove anything metal, such as jewelry, as metal interferes with the scanning equipment.

## What happens during a CT scan?

During the scan, you will usually lie on your back on a flatbed that passes into the CT scanner.

The scanner consists of a ring that rotates around a small section of your body as you pass through it. Unlike an MRI Scan it does not surround your whole body at once, so you should not feel claustrophobic.

The radiographer will operate the scanner from the next room.

While the scan is taking place, you will be able to hear and speak to them through an intercom.

While each scan is taken, you will need to lie very still and breathe normally. This ensures that the scan images are not blurred. You may be asked to breathe in, breathe out, or hold your breath at certain points. The scan will usually take around 10-20 minutes.

## What happens afterwards?

You should not experience any after effects from a CT scan and unless otherwise instructed by the nurse or doctor you can eat and drink as normal.

You will not receive the results immediately after the scan as the images will need to be analysed. A report will be sent to the doctor who referred you for the scan who in due course will give you your results.

## Students

There may be students present during your consultation as part of their on-going training.

Please let the staff know if you wish to be seen by a doctor only.