

Radiology Department

Paediatric Preparation for CT Scanning

Information for patients



Dear parent/guardian

An appointment has been made for your child
to have a CT scan on

It will be necessary to admit your child to the
**Paediatric Day Care Ward, on Level 1 of the Children's
Hospital** at on that day so that your child can be
prepared appropriately for the scan. Please go directly to the Day
Care Ward.

Children are prepared for CT scans in several ways depending on
their age and the type of CT scan they will be having. Please read
the instructions below regarding specific preparation.



Sedation

Some children will require oral sedation to ensure that they lie still and are calm for the scan. This is used for younger children **(between 3 months and 4 years of age)**. Babies younger than 3 months old will often be scanned straight after a feed when they fall asleep so will not require sedation. Children older than four years generally do not require sedation.

We use the lowest dose of sedation possible to minimise any risks. For the sedation to be most effective it is better if your child is already tired. Try keeping your child up later than usual the night before the scan, waking him or her a little earlier and attempting to keep them awake on the journey to hospital. We appreciate that this can be difficult to do but we find this method helps the sedation to work at its best.

For all babies and children up to four years old please follow these feeding instructions. This will ensure that any sedation can be given as safely as possible. If these instructions are not followed, it may not be possible to perform the scan.

- a) On the **day before** the scan your child can eat and drink as normal
- b) On the **morning of the scan** (depending on your child's age and diet) your child can:
 - Eat breakfast and drink cows milk until 8:00am
 - Drink formula milk until 10:00am
 - Be breast fed until 11:00am
 - Drink water/squash (not fruit juice) until 12:00 noon
 - Please do not give your child chewing gum or boiled sweets

Children older than four years old can eat and drink up until 12.00pm.

Additional preparation

Some children will be required to drink an oral contrast (x ray dye) on the Day Care Ward to help show up their intestines. This will be flavoured with some sugar free squash.

Some children will also require an injection of x ray dye into a vein during the scan to help show up their blood vessels. This will be done by inserting a cannula (plastic tube) into a vein whilst your child is on the Day Care Ward. This tube will then be used during the CT scan for the injection of dye.

The scan will be performed in the afternoon and you should be able to leave the hospital by 5pm at the latest.

If you have any queries about your child's scan please contact the telephone number on the appointment letter.

If you need an interpreter or need a document in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221473** or email **PALSJR@ouh.nhs.uk**

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Version 1, July 2013

Review, July 2016

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www.ouh.nhs.uk/patientinformation

OMI 5076P