

Radiology, what we do:

OPENING HOURS

The department is open for appointments and enquiries Monday to Friday 9.00am – 1.00 pm & 2.00 -4.30pm.

Age Policy:

It is hospital policy to only accept GP referrals for patients OVER THE AGE OF 14 YEARS for injury to limbs. Under this age, all referrals should be forwarded to any of the children's hospitals for specialist paediatric care.

Radiology is where a variety of imaging techniques such as X-ray radiography, Computed Tomography (CT), Ultrasound (US), Dexa and Fluoroscopy are used to diagnose diseases.

The acquisition of medical images is usually carried out by the radiographer. The Diagnostic Radiologist then interprets or "reads" the images and produces a report of their findings and impression or diagnosis. This report is then transmitted to the doctor/GP or Consultant who requested the imaging examination.

We are a fully digital filmless department using National Integrated Management imaging System (NIMIS). All GP reports are sent electronically via Health link.

Radiology is provided as both an inpatient and outpatient service. The department is divided into individual areas of specialties, with each area led by a clinical specialist or senior radiographer.

Our specialties include:

- General X-ray
- Fluoroscopy (Barium meal, barium swallow, gastric band)
- Computed Tomography (CT) (Thorax, abdomen, brain)
- Ultrasound (Abdomen Gynaecology, MSK, Vascular and small parts)
- Dexa (Bone Densitometry)

Radiology Referrals

There are a number of referral sources accepted by the radiology department. These include consultant referral, general practitioner (GP), hospital (local injury/medical assessment units' and ward) referrals.

The department provides a walk in service for patients referred by GP's for chest x-ray (over 16) and x-ray of limbs due to injury from patient over 14 years.

INFORMATION SHEET

The department provides an **appointment service for the following exams:** CT, Ultrasound, Fluoroscopy, DEXA and certain general x-ray examinations.

Referral letters must be faxed or posted into the department and subsequently appointment letters will be posted to the patient. (Please check that your address and telephone number is correct on the referral letter. If not please provide us with the correct information).

All CT, Ultrasound and Fluoroscopy referrals are vetted by the radiologist. Post vetting, a suitable appointment time is allocated and an appointment letter is posted to the patient.

Appointment letter:

Depending on the type of examination you are having, you may need to prepare beforehand. Your letter will give you all of the information you need which is specific to the test you are having.

Please make sure you read the information in your letter carefully before you come to hospital.

All patients over 16 years are accepted by GP referral for the specialties within the department.

Non Attendance/Cancellation Policy:

If you need to change/cancel your appointment, we require at least 24 hours advanced notice (Monday to Friday). You can contact the dept on 01-211 5020. If this is not done then you are deemed as having failed to attend (DNA).

If you **fail to attend your initial appointment, you will be automatically discharged** from the service and a new referral will be required if further assessment and treatment is necessary.

Contact:

You can contact the department via:

Tel: (01) 2115020

Fax: (01) 2115190

Email: radiology.stch@hse.ie

Pregnancy:

Radiation may harm an unborn baby. If you are, or may be pregnant, you must tell the radiographer before your examination. For some examinations you may be asked by reception if you are pregnant or know your last menstrual period (LMP) at the time of booking. Some examinations will need to be booked at later dates depending on LMP/pregnancy status.

INFORMATION SHEET

Clothing:

You may be asked to change into a hospital gown if you are wearing clothes with metal fastenings (e.g. zips or hooks on a bra) or buttons, as these show up on the images. If you would feel uncomfortable wearing a gown why not bring along a pair of pyjama trousers and a plain t-shirt.

Relatives and escorts:

You can bring a friend or relative with you to the radiology department, however they will not normally be allowed in the examination room with you and will be asked to remain in the waiting area.

Children:

Unfortunately we are not able to offer childcare facilities. If you need to bring your children with you, please bring along an adult who can look after them in the waiting area while you are having the examination.

Car Parking – Paid parking

Please allow ample time to find a parking space before your radiology appointment so as not to be late.