

Scanning Department

MRI, CT and Radio-isotope (nuclear medicine) scans are all performed in the Scanning Department, located at the top of the main hospital slope on the Stanmore site. Go to [the map of the Stanmore site](#) to see its location - item number 20.

While some appointments may be provided on our behalf at another facility, most scanning appointments must be performed at the RNOH Trust Stanmore site.

For all appointments, or speak to the Scanning receptionist on the day of your examination, please call 020 8909 5801.

The fax line is: 020 8909 5270.

Opening hours are dependent upon the examination type. Please see below.

MRI

Opening hours are 8am – 8pm, seven days a week (Monday – Sunday).

MRI is short for magnetic resonance imaging. This type of imaging involves no ionising radiation, rather uses radio-frequency waves and a strong magnetic field to produce detailed images of the body.

The scanning involves you lying down on a table in a short tunnel for between 20-60 minutes (depending on the area being scanned). The scanning machine is noisy, and you are able to bring along your own CD if you would like to listen to your favorite music during the scanning.

The scanning staff try to make you as comfortable as possible for the duration of the scan, but please call in advance if you may not be able to lie still for the required time, or if you have any other special requirements, such as needing the use of a hoist.

CT

Opening hours are 9.30am – 4pm or 6.30pm Monday – Friday and 9.30am – 4pm Saturday.

CT is short for computed tomography, previously called CAT (computed axial tomography) scanning. This type of imaging involves ionising radiation and the staff use specially optimised protocols to ensure that

your radiation dose is as low as can be achieved, while producing the required image quality.

The scanning involves you lying down on a table and moving through a short doughnut shape for between 10-40 minutes (depending on the examination required).

The scanning staff try to make you as comfortable as possible for the duration of the scan, but please call in advance if you may not be able to lie down on your back, or if you have any other special requirements, such as needing the use of a hoist.

Radio-isotopes (Nuclear Medicine)



Opening hours are 9am – 5pm Monday – Friday by prior appointment only.

The nuclear medicine service requires appointments to be made at least a day in advance, so that the required radioisotopes can be ordered. The isotope will be specially prepared and then injected into the veins so that the camera can see a specific area of the body.

Other types of radio-isotope scanning (SPECT/CT or PET/CT imaging) are not performed at the RNOH Trust. If you require either of these types of scans, you will be referred by us into another approved service so that you can have your appointment there.