Imaging Services

Information on procedure: **WHITE CELL SCAN**

**WHAT IS A WHITE CELL SCAN?** This test is used to diagnose infection, usually around a joint.

**CONTACT US:** Please contact us if you have urinary incontinence or will need the use of a hoist to mobilise. **FEMALE PATIENTS:** Please also contact the department if you are breastfeeding or have missed your last period.

**PREPARATION:** There is no preparation as such, but a small quantity of blood will be taken early on the morning of your appointment. Please ensure you have something to eat and drink before you arrive.

**HAVING THE SCAN:** The blood sample taken on the morning is used to prepare the white blood cells with a small amount of radioactivity. This will have to be re-injected (approximately 3-4 hours later). Following that injection we will need to take a series of images. This examination will not affect your ability to drive and any medication can be taken as normal.

- **Stage 1** - Blood sample taken early in the morning.
- **Stage 2** - The prepared white cells are re-injected 3-4 hours later.
- **Stage 3** - Scans occur 1 hour following the injection.
- **Stage 4** - More scans occur 3-4 hours after the injection.

During the long delays, you may leave the hospital grounds so long as you are able to return 5 min before the next stage is due. We regret that the delays between stages are unavoidable.

**AFTER THE SCAN:** You will be radioactive for 24 hours so it is wise to avoid sustained, close physical contact with anybody who is pregnant, small children and babies for the day following injection.