



A typical CT Scan of the brain

Your Appointment is:

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PENRITH IMAGING**

If you have any other questions,  
please do not hesitate to contact  
us or your referring doctor

**Penrith Imaging Branches**  
CT Scans are conducted at the branches below

16-18 Castlereagh Street,  
Penrith 2750  
Phone: (02) 4731 6977  
Fax: (02) 4721 2756

Suite 4, Ground Floor  
68 Derby Street,  
Penrith 2750  
Phone: (02) 4737 3300  
Fax: (02) 4737 3301

CT Scan

Patient  
Information

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## What is a CT Scan?

CT stands for Computerised Tomography. It can also be referred to as a CAT Scan. A CT Scan is a specialised x-ray examination produced by a machine which resembles a large donut. The CT scan can be compared to a sliced loaf of bread where you may select a particular slice and view it.

## How do I make an appointment?

These examinations are available at the Penrith Imaging branches shown on the back of this leaflet. Telephone or visit your nearest branch to arrange a convenient appointment. If you are diabetic and taking tablets to control the diabetes, please tell our receptionist when making an appointment.

## Do I need to do anything?

Depending on the area to be examined, you may be required to fast from fluids, food or both. If you have been instructed to fast for your examination, this means you must not eat or drink anything in this time. Please continue to take any medication with a small sip of water. For CT abdomen and CT pelvis you may be required to drink a special mixture prior to the examination.

## Will it take long?

A scan takes approximately 10 - 15 minutes. Abdominal scans including kidneys, pancreas and liver, may take up to 1.5 hours.

## What happens?

You are required to lie on a couch which is slowly passed through the centre of the machine. For some CT Scans you will be required to have an injection of contrast medium (x-ray dye). At all Penrith Imaging rooms, non-ionic contrast is used. This contrast medium is extremely safe, ensuring that you receive the best quality medical care. The injection is given into a vein in either the inside of the elbow or on the back of the hand like a blood test, and is used to visualise certain body organs.

## Will I feel anything?

You may feel slightly warm and have an unusual taste in the back of the throat. This is quite normal and disappears very quickly.

## Are there any side effects?

As with all injections or medications, there is a very small chance of allergy to contrast medium (x-ray dye). Therefore, please tell the radiographer, nurse or radiologist of any allergies, particularly to iodine BEFORE the injection is given. You will be required to fill out a brief questionnaire prior to your test regarding your medical history. You may drive afterwards, as the injection does not affect your eyesight, and you may return to normal duties straight away.

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**Please Remember to bring your referral and any previous films with you**