How do I pay for my exam?
Although Winchester Hospital accepts most major commercial insurance plans, Medicare, Medicaid and Worker’s Compensation, it is important to check with your carrier prior to your exam to determine coverage. If you do not have health insurance, we accept MasterCard or Visa, personal checks or cash.

How will I get my exam results?
Your exam will be interpreted by a radiologist using our state-of-the-art Picture Archiving and Communication System (PACS). The results will then be sent to your doctor. Your doctor, in turn, will review the results with you to determine the best course of treatment.

How do I obtain a copy of my images?
You will need to pre-arrange the release of your images by calling Winchester Hospital’s Imaging Center in Woburn at (781) 756-4008 or Winchester Hospital at (781) 756-2353. A notice of 24 hours is preferred for most efficient customer service. Urgent requests will be honored, but there may be a 30- to 60-minute wait.

If you have other questions or would like to take a tour...
Please don’t hesitate to call us. We want you to feel comfortable and be informed about your exam. If you have further questions, call our Nuclear Medicine Department at (781) 756-2310 or fax (781) 756-2311.

Your Appointment Is:
Date: ____________________________
Time: ____________________________
Scheduling Phone: (781) 756-2211

Winchester Hospital
41 Highland Avenue
Winchester, MA 01890
Bringing Medical Excellence to Our Community

Winchester Hospital’s nuclear medicine services are located at the hospital’s main campus. Our technology provides great comfort for patients and our imaging staff is dedicated to providing high-quality exams and timely results.

Our nuclear medicine services are accredited by the American College of Radiology (ACR). During your visit, our staff will answer any questions you might have about your exam.

What is nuclear medicine?

Nuclear medicine is unique because it shows how organs and tissues are working. For example, nuclear medicine allows physicians to see how a kidney is functioning, not just what it looks like. Other diagnostic imaging tests, such as X-rays, CT scans and MRIs, reveal anatomical structure.

There are more than 50 different nuclear medicine examinations to assess organ function. A thyroid uptake study shows how well the thyroid gland is working. A cardiac stress test shows blood flow to the heart and helps your physician detect coronary artery disease. Bone scans can detect fractures, tumors and infections.

How do I schedule my exam?

To schedule a nuclear medicine exam, call our centralized scheduling office at (781) 756-2211.

Nuclear medicine exams require a written physician order that can be faxed or brought with you. You may be required to have pre-authorization from your insurance carrier prior to your exam.

How do I prepare for my exam?

Depending on the body part to be examined, your physician may provide specific instructions on how to prepare for the exam. You should follow these instructions closely.

Before your examination, a nuclear medicine technologist will explain the procedure and answer any questions you might have. A nuclear medicine technologist is a skilled medical professional who has received specialized education in the areas of anatomy, radiation protection, patient care, radiopharmaceuticals, radiation exposure and nuclear medicine procedures.

Tell the technologist if you have any allergies or if you are undergoing other diagnostic tests because these factors may require adjustments in how the examination is performed.

Be sure to tell the technologist if you are pregnant or are breastfeeding. Nuclear medicine tests usually are not recommended for women who are pregnant or breastfeeding.

What can I expect during my nuclear medicine exam?

For most nuclear medicine examinations, you are positioned on a scanning table underneath a scintillation, or gamma camera. The camera is not a tube or tunnel. A radiopharmaceutical is administered to you by injecting it into a vein, taking it by mouth or inhaling it as a gas. It travels through your bloodstream to a specific area of the body where it accumulates in the organs or tissues to be imaged. The camera then detects and records the radioactive emission from your body.

For some nuclear medicines studies, imaging takes place immediately. For others, images are taken an hour, two hours or even several days after administration of the radiopharmaceutical. In all cases, you are permitted to leave the hospital and return for the imaging procedure.

Most nuclear medicine procedures require several different images from different angles, and the technologist may ask you to change position during the examination. You will need to lie still during each scan. Imaging can take as long as two hours.

What should I do after my exam?

In most cases, the radiation that you are exposed to during a nuclear medicine procedure is equal or less than a standard X-ray of the same body area. In general, the radiopharmaceutical administered during the examination will be eliminated naturally from your body in one or two days. Drinking fluids will help clear the radiopharmaceuticals from your system more quickly. You do not need to avoid contact with other people during this time.