

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I get an X-Ray, CT, MRI, Mammogram, Ultrasound, Fluoroscopy, Nuclear Medicine, Interventional Examination?

Radiology is a referral only service. A completed referral form needs to be written by a GP/Specialist/Midwife, Physiotherapist or other approved Health Practitioner that is authorised to request radiology examinations. An examination cannot be done without a referral form which provides important clinical information to justify the examination and to ensure that the most appropriate imaging is performed.

Why did the doctor ask for this?

In order to gain further information regarding the diagnosis and treatment of your condition.

Does it Cost?

Who pays for the procedure depends on the referral stream you are referred through. The Government funds some examinations and some are paid for privately. Some ACC examinations require a co-payment. The main types of funding are:

- ACC or Work Insurer
- Private
- Government funded referral streams

The site where you have the examination does not control whether you pay or not. All FRSL sites including the hospital sites can perform private or public examinations.

Pregnancy

All female patients of childbearing age (12 – 55 years) referred for an X-Ray examination of an area between the lower chest and knees, will be asked by the radiographer if they might be or are pregnant before any examination is undertaken.

When and where do I get my results from?

Your results are sent to the person referring you plus sometimes your GP. These results will be available within 3- 5 working days.

Will it hurt?

The X-Ray itself does not hurt in any way. If you are injured, the radiographer will take special care to minimise any possible discomfort during the taking of the images.

Are appointments on time?

Please ensure you report ten minutes prior to your appointment as Fulford Radiology usually runs on time. Occasionally at the hospital sites, emergency cases may cause delays, but patients will be informed on arrival if this is the case.

Mammograms, when should I have them and do they cost?

Breast Screening:

The 'Breast Screening Aotearoa' programme is available to all women between the ages of 45 and 69 and this service is available free of charge. 'Breast Screening Aotearoa' may be contacted for further information on freephone 0800 270200.

Diagnostic Mammograms:

Patients are also referred to FRSL for diagnostic mammography

What is a 'High-Tech' procedure?

'High-Tech' refers to the level of technology involved in certain radiology procedures. These 'High-Tech' procedures are often used in conjunction with other radiological procedures, providing the clinical information necessary to help with the provision of a diagnosis.

Some of the high tech procedures undertaken at Fulford Radiology are:

Computed Tomography (CT) which uses X-Rays to make cross sectional images of any part of the body. These images provide valuable information to help in the early detection and correct diagnosis of diseases.

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

MRI uses a large strong magnet (1.5 Tesla) and radiowaves to obtain an image. No X-Rays are used in MRI. The magnet is always on and strict safety procedures are followed because of this. MR imaging is used in the diagnosis and follow up of many diseases. It is also an extremely useful tool in orthopaedic work.

Nuclear Medicine is the application of tracer technology using radio isotopes. The radio isotope is injected into the arm vein of the patient and images are made using a gamma camera. Many types of diagnosis are made using Nuclear Medicine the most well known procedure being a bone scan.

Interventional studies are highly specialised techniques used by radiologists to carry out certain types of advanced diagnosis, such as biopsies, or to perform treatments such as angioplasty and drainage of internal abscesses.

Angiography involves making X-Ray pictures of blood vessels inside the body using catheter techniques to inject special types of contrast medium (dye). Patients are sometimes admitted to hospital for these procedures.