



**Patient Instructions**  
**CT Scan**  
**(Computerized Tomography)**

<b>Affix Label Here</b>
Name: _____
Date of Birth: _____
PTID: _____

**What is a CT scan?**

A CT scan uses X-ray's and a computer to create cross-sectional pictures of structures inside the body.

**How do I prepare for a CT scan?**

- **For CT scans of the abdomen or pelvis, arrive one (1) hour prior to your appointment time. For all other CT scans, arrive 30 minutes prior to your appointment time.**
- **DO NOT eat or drink anything for two (2) hours before your scan.** You can take your medicine/s with a few sips of water if needed. If you are having a CT scan of your head or neck, **do not** wear dental adhesives to your appointment. You may have blood work drawn prior to the scan to assess your kidney function.
- Let your scheduler and radiology technologist know if you have an allergy to IV contrast or iodine.
- If you have ever had a reaction to any type of IV contrast or iodine, please discuss this with your doctor before your appointment is made.
- **You may need to be pre-medicated BEFORE your scan. This is done eighteen (18) hours prior to your appointment. If pre-medicated, bring a driver because the medicines may cause drowsiness.**
- If you have had an X-ray with barium, you must wait at least seven (7) days to have your CT scan of your chest, abdomen or pelvis.
- If you had a port surgically inserted outside Karmanos or the DMC, please bring your port identification card or documentation of the port.

**What can I expect?**

- If your scan is of the abdomen or pelvis, you may be given oral contrast to drink.
- An intravenous (IV) may be started to give you contrast through a vein. A radiology technologist will help you assume the correct position on the scanner table. It is important that you lie still during the scan.
- You may be asked to hold your breath at various times during the scanning procedure.

**How long will the exam take?**

- The CT scan will take between 15 minutes to one (1) hour. Allow 10-15 minutes for each area of the body you are having scanned.

**What will happen after the CT scan?**

- If you were given contrast, you may be asked to drink extra water after the scan to help flush the contrast out of your system.
- No special care is needed after a CT scan.

If you have any questions or concerns, call your clinic weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_  
 After hours and weekends, call **1-800-KARMANOS (1-800-527-6266)**

Patient/Personal Representative Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Nurse Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_