**HAVING A CT SCAN**

**PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR CT**

**What is a CT Scan?**

A computed tomography (CT) scan is a specialised type of x-ray which takes very detailed images of the tissues inside your body such as bones, organs and vessels.

**How do I prepare for the CT Scan?**

You will need to **arrive 15 minutes** before your appointment time when you may need to change into a gown and remove all metal objects from your body.

**What happens during the CT Scan?**

You will lie flat on your back on a bed that passes through the ringed opening of the scanner 3 to 4 times. Depending on your scan, you will be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds during the scans, and to remain still.

**What happens after the CT Scan?**

The Radiographer who performs the scan will ensure all the images have been taken and are prepared for review by the Radiologist who will send a report to your referring consultant. The time it takes for this to happen varies but is usually done in less than a week. There, are no side effects to having this scan and you can eat and drink as normal and it is safe to drive and return to work right away.

**Before having the CT Scan**

Please inform the radiographer if you have any allergies, particularly to iodine or any problems with your kidneys that you are aware of.

Females between the ages of 12-55 years will need to confirm that they are not pregnant before proceeding with the scan.

Unfortunately there are no childcare facilities at the hospital and children cannot come into the scanning room with you.

If you have any concerns, or would like to discuss the scan and procedure with a Radiographer, please do not hesitate to contact the imaging department on **0208 347 3866** or **diagnostics@highgatehospital.co.uk**