**HAVING A CT SCAN**

**PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR CT GUIDED INJECTION**

**What is a CT Scan?**

A computed tomography (CT) guided injection scan utilises specialised type of x-rays which take very detailed, low radiation dose images of the inside of your body.

**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, and a consent form and checklist will be completed.

**What happens during the CT Scan?**

You will lie on a bed that passes through the ringed opening of the scanner. The radiographer will take some images so the doctor can plan where to inject. Once the needles are positioned, some more images will be taken to ensure they are located correctly; the doctor may need to come in and out of the scanning room to make adjustments and review further images before injecting the anaesthetic/steroids.

**What happens after the CT Scan?**

If you have had a thoracic or lumbar spine injection, you may change into your own clothes and wait in imaging, where you will be reviewed before going home. If you have had a cervical spine injection, you will be taken to recovery and monitored. Usually you are sent home 30 minutes following the procedure.

**Before having the CT Scan**

Please inform the radiographer or doctor if you have any allergies, or if you are taking any antiplatelet/anticoagulant (blood thinning) medications such as *Warfarin, Aspirin, Clopidogrel, Dipyridamole, Dabigatran or Rivaroxaban.*

You will need to have had a recent MRI scan of the part of your spine being injected. Please bring a CD of the images if you have them, or let us know where the scan took place.

Females between the ages of 12-55 years will need to confirm that they are not pregnant, and may be asked for the dates of their last menstrual period before the scan can be booked.

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**