



## **Nuclear Medicine**

Nuclear medicine is a branch of radiology that uses radioactive materials to determine if certain organs such as the heart, kidneys, liver, thyroid, brain and lungs are working properly. It is also used to examine the bones for cancer, infection or trauma.

### **How does it work?**

Before the test begins you will be given a small amount of radioactive material called a radioisotope. This medication will be injected or taken orally. There should be little or no discomfort involved in the test. Nuclear medicine procedures are safe, effective and painless.

How this test is performed depends on the type of scan your physician has ordered. In many cases there will be a delay between the time you are given the medication and time the scan is actually made. This allows the isotope time to flow through the body and concentrate in the organ that is being examined.

It is important to dress comfortably for this exam. Exam times vary, depending on the type of study your physician has ordered.