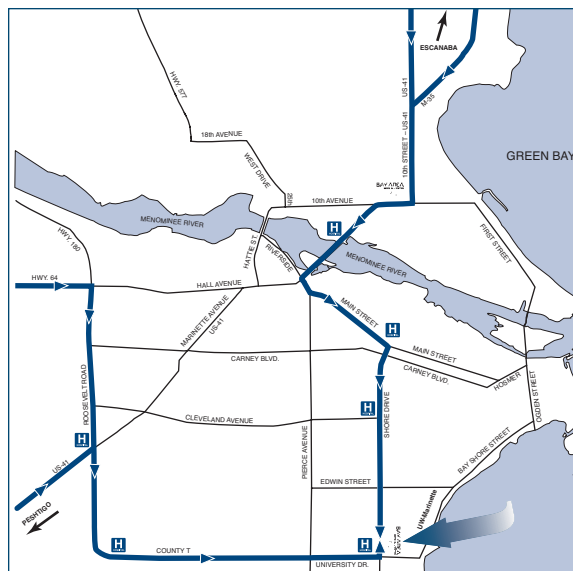


Welcome

Your doctor has scheduled you for a Computed Tomography scan (CT scan) at Bay Area Medical Center. This brochure should answer most of the questions you may have concerning your scan.

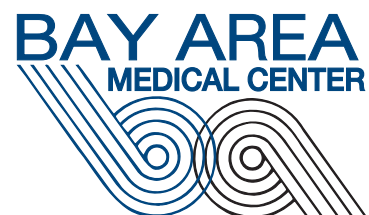
If you have any further questions, call our office staff at 715-735-4200 (Ext. 3301).

Your appointment is scheduled for:



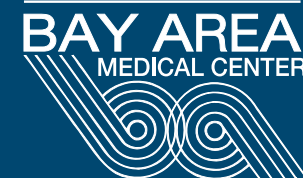
CT SCANS

*BAMC Patient's Guide
to CT Scans*



3100 SHORE DRIVE
MARINETTE, WI 54143
(715) 735-4200

www.bamc.org



Understanding CT Scans

What is a CT scan?

Computed tomography, commonly known as a CT scan, uses X-rays and computers to produce images of a cross-section (like slices in a loaf of bread) of the body. You must lie as still as possible as the table moves through the large donut-shaped scanning device. Movement could blur the images produced by the scanner.

Why is a CT scan performed?

CT scans rapidly create very detailed pictures of the body. The test may be used to study blood vessels, identify masses or tumors, or to guide a surgeon to the right area during a biopsy.

What should I do before coming in for my CT scan?

Sometimes the scan requires a special dye, called contrast, to be in your body before the scan starts. This will help to highlight certain areas and creates a clearer image.

You might be instructed to have a blood test before the CT scan to make sure the right dye is chosen for accurate results. Failure to obtain the blood test might delay your CT scan appointment.

The dye can be delivered through an IV placed in a vein in your hand or forearm. For some CT scans you may need to drink a liquid that will coat your bowel. We use sugar-free Kool-aid to flavor the drink.

You should have nothing by mouth four hours before your test. Continue to take any medication prescribed by your doctor unless otherwise directed. Take nothing by mouth four hours immediately before your scan.

Comfortable, athletic-type clothing (like a sweat suit) without metal snaps or zippers is the recommended type of clothing to wear to your appointment. Gowns and scrubs will also be available.

You should plan on arriving at the hospital 30 minutes before your scan to allow for completing any necessary paperwork.

Is a CT scan a safe procedure?

CT scans use X-rays. The amount of radiation you're exposed to during a CT scan is so small that the risk of any damage to cells in your body is extremely low.

For most X-ray examinations, including CT scans, the benefits of the scan may far outweigh the small risk. In addition, great care is taken to use the lowest radiation dose needed to produce the best images. No radiation remains after a CT scan.

X-rays are painless. Some people may have discomfort from lying on the hard table. If you weigh more than 500 pounds, have your doctor contact BAMC.

The contrast dye might cause a slight burning sensation, a metallic taste in the mouth and a warm flushing of the body. These sensations are normal and usually go away within a few seconds.

If you are pregnant, please notify your doctor and the BAMC staff.

Please check with your doctor if you are uncertain about any of the above mentioned items.

What will happen during my CT scan?

You will be asked to lie down on a narrow table that slides into the center of the CT scanner. Depending on the study being done, you may need to lie on your stomach, back or side.

You may be asked to remove the following items for your CT scan:

- Coins
- Credit Cards
- Glasses
- Watches
- Jewelry
- Other Metal Objects
- Keys
- Hair Pins/Wigs

You will also need to remove dentures and hearing aids.

How long will the CT scan take?

The scan takes about 5 to 30 minutes depending on the type of information your doctor needs. If you need to drink before the scan you will need to be here 1 – 1 1/2 hours before the test can begin.

What happens after the CT scan?

Because there are no side effects, you may leave immediately following the procedure. You can resume your normal diet. The radiologist will study the CT scan images and report the results to your doctor. Your doctor will schedule a time with you to discuss the results of your CT scan.

How will I be billed for this?

All charges for your visit will be submitted to your insurance carrier including those from BAMC and from the health care providers involved in your CT scan. Please bring your insurance card and referral/authorization form (if necessary) on the day of your appointment. Some insurance carriers require precertification for CT scans.

For information on financial counseling or payment questions, call 715-735-8012.

What if I have to cancel my appointment?

Cancellations sometimes are unavoidable; however, we ask that you notify us one day in advance whenever possible. This courtesy assists the staff in daily scheduling of other patients who may be waiting for an appointment.

Contact BAMC at 715-735-4200 (Ext. 3301) to cancel or reschedule an appointment.