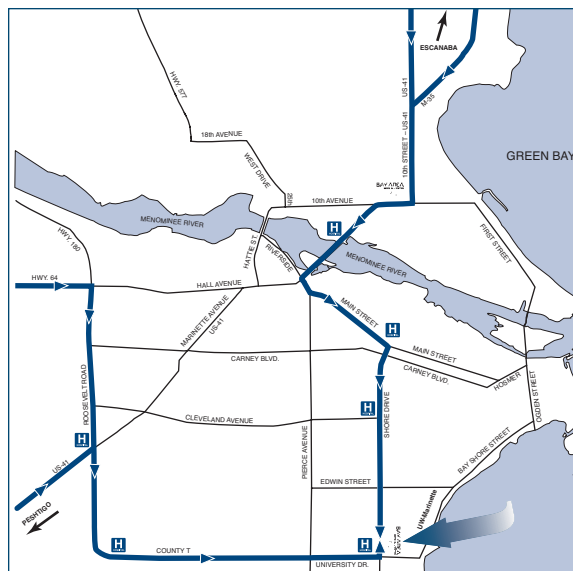


Welcome

Your doctor has scheduled you for a Nuclear Medicine test at Bay Area Medical Center. This brochure should answer most of the questions you may have concerning your test.

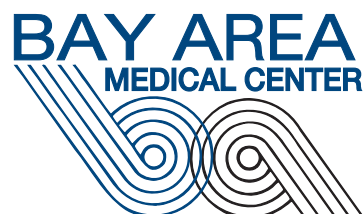
If you have any further questions, call our office staff at 715-735-4200 (Ext. 3301).

Your appointment is scheduled for:



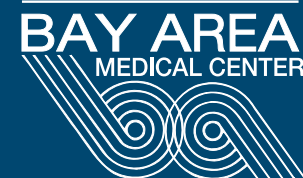
NUCLEAR MEDICINE TESTS

*BAMC Patient's Guide
to Nuclear Medicine Tests*



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

www.bamc.org



Understanding Nuclear Medicine Tests

What is Nuclear Medicine?

Nuclear medicine tests are imaging tests that use a radioactive tracer to look for diseases in the body. A specialized nuclear imaging camera is used to take pictures of the body.

The radioactive tracer will be injected into vein and will travel through the blood and collect in organs and tissues.

Why is Nuclear Medicine performed?

You may need to undergo a nuclear medicine test for a variety of reasons. Nuclear medicine may be used, among other things, to:

- Analyze kidney function
- Scan lungs for respiratory and blood-flow problems
- Identify blockage of the gallbladder or bleeding into the bowel
- Image blood flow and function of the heart
- Determine the presence of infection and cancer
- Measure thyroid function

What should I do before coming in for my Nuclear Medicine test?

Preparation for your test will depend on the reason the test is being done. **You will be contacted by Bay Area Medical Center prior to your appointment.**

Comfortable clothing is recommended for your appointment.

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

Is Nuclear Medicine a safe procedure?

The amount of radiation you're exposed to during a nuclear medicine test is so small that the risk of any damage to cells in your body is extremely low.

The benefits of the test may far outweigh the small risk. In addition, great care is taken to use the lowest radiation dose needed to produce the best images.

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 Nuclear Medicine procedure?

During most nuclear medicine tests, you will lie on a scanning table and a specialized nuclear camera is used to take images. The camera may look like a large round metal structure with two arms attached that hang over the table. The camera might also be under the table and out of view. The images will appear on a computer.

How long will the Nuclear Medicine test take?

Times vary greatly. You will be contacted by Bay Area Medical Center prior to your appointment. The person who contacts you will let you know how long to expect your appointment to be.

Please be aware that Nuclear Medicine tests can take 45 minutes to 4 hours. Depending on the organs that are being examined, there may be several hours between when you get the tracer in your body and when the test actually happens.

It is important to lie completely still while the images are being acquired. Motion will affect the sharpness of the images.

What happens after the Nuclear Medicine test?

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

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 nuclear medicine test. Please bring your insurance card and referral/authorization form (if necessary) on the day of your appointment. Some insurance carriers require precertification for nuclear medicine exams.

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.