

Although every effort is made to remain on schedule, urgent procedures often must be added or procedures may take longer than expected to complete. We thank you for your patience in advance.

CT Exam	Patient Preparation	Length of Procedure
Head / Brain	Nothing to eat 4 hrs prior. You may have clear* fluids up to 1 hr prior to exam.	10 – 15 minutes
Neck / Chest	Nothing to eat 4 hrs prior. You may have clear* fluids up to 1 hr prior to exam.	15 - 30 minutes
Abdomen/Pelvis	Nothing to eat 4 hrs prior to exam. You may have clear* fluids up to 1 hr prior to the exam. You may also be given a barium drink the night before and 1 hr prior to your scan.	60 - 90 minutes
Abdomen/Pelvis for kidney stones	Drink 2 large glasses of water 1 hour prior to the scan, and do not empty your bladder.	15 - 30 minutes
Spine	No preparation needed.	15 - 30 minutes
Extremity	No preparation needed.	15 - 30 minutes
Biopsies	Nothing to eat 4 hrs prior to the exam. You may have clear* fluids up to 1 hr prior to the exam. Blood work must be completed prior to the procedure. These biopsy exams will require that you remain in our Medical Day Care centre for 4 hours after the biopsy.	45 – 90 minutes

- Wear loose clothing with NO metal.
- All related previous examinations are important to the reporting of your CT scan. You may be required and should be instructed by your doctor's office to bring those with you for your appointment if you have had these exams elsewhere.
- The average time from arrival to departure for a CT scan is from 30 minutes to 2 hours depending on the procedure. Most CT scans require an injection of X-Ray contrast. If you receive an injection, you will be required to remain in the CT department for at least 15 minutes after your scan is completed.
- Some studies may require additional scanning as decided by the Radiologist at the time of your scan. Consequently additional time will be needed for those examinations.
- From time to time during the day urgent Emergency and Inpatients may need to be done. This will require our immediate attention and your scan may be delayed. We will keep you informed as this occurs.



Halton Healthcare

Diagnostic Imaging Preparation Instructions

- If you have an appointment in the evening between the hours of 6 and 9 pm, or on the weekends between 8 am and 4 pm, unless otherwise instructed, your test does not require an injection and you may eat or drink prior to your test.
- **Clear** fluids consist of any liquid that you can see light through. Examples would be black coffee or tea, apple juice, broth, etc. but not milk or dairy products.