

# Nuclear Medicine Patient Information

## HIDA Hepatobiliary Scan

Welcome to VCU Health Nuclear Medicine. We are located in the Gateway Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 1200 East Marshall Street. Our hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 7 am to 5 pm. Advanced scheduling is required for all nuclear medicine exams. Please review the following information about your test. Please call (804) 828-6828 to schedule your test or if you have any questions about your nuclear medicine exam.

### What is it?

Imaging of the Liver and Gallbladder.

### Why are you having this test?

A HIDA scan may help in the diagnosis of several diseases and conditions, such as:

- Gallbladder inflammation (cholecystitis)
- Bile duct obstruction
- Congenital abnormalities in the bile ducts, such as biliary atresia
- Postoperative complications, such as bile leaks and fistulas
- Assessment of liver transplant
- Your doctor may use a HIDA scan as part of a test to measure the rate at which bile is released from your gallbladder (gallbladder ejection fraction)

### Preparing for the test

- DO NOT eat or drink anything 6 hours prior to your test.
- Take your medications as prescribed, *EXCEPT* for *pain medication/narcotics*; Please contact the Nuclear Medicine Department at (804) 828-6828 for instructions.
- Bring a picture ID and insurance information.

- Bring with you a current list of medications (including Over the Counter, Herbal, Vitamins, Supplements, etc.) and current allergies.
- Please arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment.

### What to expect during the test

- The test will take 2 - 3 hours.
- A needle (IV) will be placed in a vein (intravenous catheter). A radioactive tracer, with/without medication will be administered through the IV.
- Depending on the type of exam, imaging times will vary.
- You will lie down while the camera takes pictures of your liver and gallbladder (this may be up to 2 hours).

### After Care Information

- You may return to all your normal activities.
- Most of the radioactive tracer leaves your body through your urine. Drinking extra fluids may help the tracer leave your body faster.

### Contact information if questions or concerns

- Any Questions: Please contact us at (804) 828-6828 and ask to speak to a Nuclear Medicine Technologist. After hours, please call (804) 828-3699.

### Follow-Up Care after the procedure

- Results will be available in 1-2 business days.
- For Results: Please contact the Physician that ordered your test.