

# Nuclear Medicine Patient Information

## Tagged White Blood Cell Imaging

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 to detect abscess and/or infection.

### Why are you having this test?

A test using radioactive material which is tagged to your white blood cells that, when injected into the body, is attached to sites of abscess and/or infection.

### Preparing for the test

- No patient preparation.
- Take your medications as prescribed.
- 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 1 - 2 days.

#### Day 1

- A needle (IV) will be placed in a vein (intravenous catheter).
- Your blood will be drawn and the white blood cells will be combined (tagged) with a radioactive tracer.

- Your tagged white blood cells will be administered through the IV, approximately 3 hours after initial blood draw.
- You may go on with normal activities in between your blood draw and injection (eat and drink as normal).

#### Day 2

- You will lie down while the camera takes pictures of your whole body and possibly a SPECT (360 degree picture of your body) for 1 – 2 hours.
- The images will be checked for quality by our Physician and more pictures may be needed.

### 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.