What is Nuclear Medicine?
Nuclear medicine examinations use small amounts of radioactive material to diagnose and determine the severity or treatment of diseases. Depending on the type of scan you have, the radioactive material is either injected, swallowed or inhaled (as a gas).

The area of interest is then scanned by a special camera which produces the pictures and information. Bone mineral densitometry (BMD or DEXA) is a test to see if you have osteoporosis and osteopenia (loss of bone mass). BMD does not require the use of a radioactive material.

Nuclear Medicine Safety
Special care is taken during the scan to use the lowest radiation dose possible. State-of-the-art imaging systems are used; this ensures minimal radiation exposure from the radioactive materials used. Females between the ages of 10 and 55 years (provincial policy) are asked if there is any possibility of pregnancy, or if they are breastfeeding, before having a nuclear medicine examination.

Nuclear Medicine and Pregnancy
A decision to undergo a Nuclear Medicine procedure if you are pregnant will be made very carefully by your doctor and our staff in consultation with you.

Preparation
For some examinations, you may be asked to follow some instructions, to prepare for the test. You will be advised of any instructions needed to be followed before your procedure.

Medications
You should never stop taking any prescribed medications unless you are advised to by your doctor or other health care professional responsible for your care.

Post Procedure
If any special instructions are needed after your nuclear medicine scan, you will be informed by our staff, before you leave the nuclear medicine department.
Nuclear Medicine
Your Role in Patient Safety

Let Us Know If You:
• Are taking any medications, including vitamins and herbal supplements
• Have any allergies
• Have had any recent illnesses or other medical conditions
• Are anxious about your nuclear medicine examination
• Have any questions or concerns about pregnancy
• Are worried about the radiation risks of your test
• Are unable to perform any of the instructions required for the test (diabetic, incontinent, etc), before your appointment

Safety Tips
• Ensure you inform the staff of any slip, trip or falls you may have had within the last six months
• Bring any mobility aids you use at home with you, to assist in your examination
• Help promote infection control within the hospital, by using the hand sanitizer from the stations provided

Self-Screen
Please contact the DI department if you have any of the following symptoms:
• Fever
• Cough
• Trouble breathing
• Body aches or tiredness
• Bad headache
• Wear your hospital ID bracelet while you are at the hospital

To ensure your safety, please inform the staff if you are uncomfortable, need assistance or have questions you would like answered. Free interpretation services are available, upon request.

General campus
Main X-ray department, East Wing, 1st Floor
Nuclear medicine booking and enquiries: 416-438-2911, ext. 8106

Birchmount campus
Main X-ray department, Main Floor
Nuclear medicine booking and enquiries: 416-495-2701, ext. 2897