

# EXAM PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS



#### **IMPORTANT**

Please call us at 403-777-3076 if you need to reschedule.

#### **BEFORE YOUR APPOINTMENT**

 Avoid all caffeine products (e.g., coffee, tea, chocolate, Excedrin, decaf coffee, decaf tea) in the 24 hours before your test.

#### DAY OF YOUR APPOINTMENT

- Take all prescribed medications as directed
- Please arrive 15 minutes before your appointment to allow enough time to check in with reception.
- Bring photo identification and your provincial health card.
- Wear comfortable clothes.
- Please do not bring children who require supervision.

### **YOUR EXAM**

DURATION: 25 minutes

Computed tomography (CT) is an advanced imaging system that uses a combination of X-rays and computer technology to produce comprehensive images of your heart. This exam is designed to measure the amount of calcified, or hard, plaque in the small arteries that supply the heart. This "calcium score" is extensively studied and can be used to help determine your specific risk for a future heart attack.

#### WHAT HAPPENS DURING MY EXAM?

- You may be asked to change into scrubs.
- You will be asked to lie on your back on the bed of the CT scanner, which will then be adjusted for correct placement.
- Your technologist will place electrocardiograph (EKG) patches on your chest and arms to watch your heart rate.
- Your technologist will leave the room to begin your exam, but you will be in direct communication throughout your procedure.
- You will be asked to hold your breath (for 10-15 seconds) to help obtain specific images.
- At the end of your exam, your technologist will help you off the bed and guide you back to your change room. You are then free to leave.

## WHEN WILL I GET MY RESULTS?

We do our best to have our radiologists interpret the information and forward the results to your doctor in a timely manner.

Tel 403.777.3000 radiology.ca