

## What is a Kidney Function (GFR) test?

The GFR test uses very low levels of radioactivity ( $^{99m}\text{Tc-DTPA}$ ) to assess the function of your kidneys.

## What happens when I attend for my appointment?

Step 1: Soon after you arrive at the department, a small injection of radioactive tracer will be injected into a vein, usually in the arm.

Step 2: You will be required to return 2 hours after the injection for a blood test from your opposite arm. A clinical technologist will tell you the exact time.

Step 3: You will be required to return after another 2 hours for a final blood test. A clinical technologist will tell you the exact time.

We will not be able to take blood samples for any alternative tests.

You are not obligated to remain in the department for the entire 4 hours, but **please make every effort to attend at the allocated times.**

### **\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\***

1. If you are prescribed a **diuretic (water tablet)**; please avoid taking this on the morning of the test. Continue with any other medication.
2. Have a **light breakfast** on the day of your appointment.
3. Please **do not** eat a large lunch for the duration of the test but you will be able to have a snack if you are hungry.
4. Please **drink regularly** throughout the test.
5. If you are pregnant, or if you are breast-feeding, please contact the department.

## What happens after the test?

You may go home and continue with your normal activities. At no time will you be a risk to other people including your close family.

The results of the test will be sent to your doctor, and may be explained to you at your next hospital appointment.

## Benefits, Risks and Side Effects

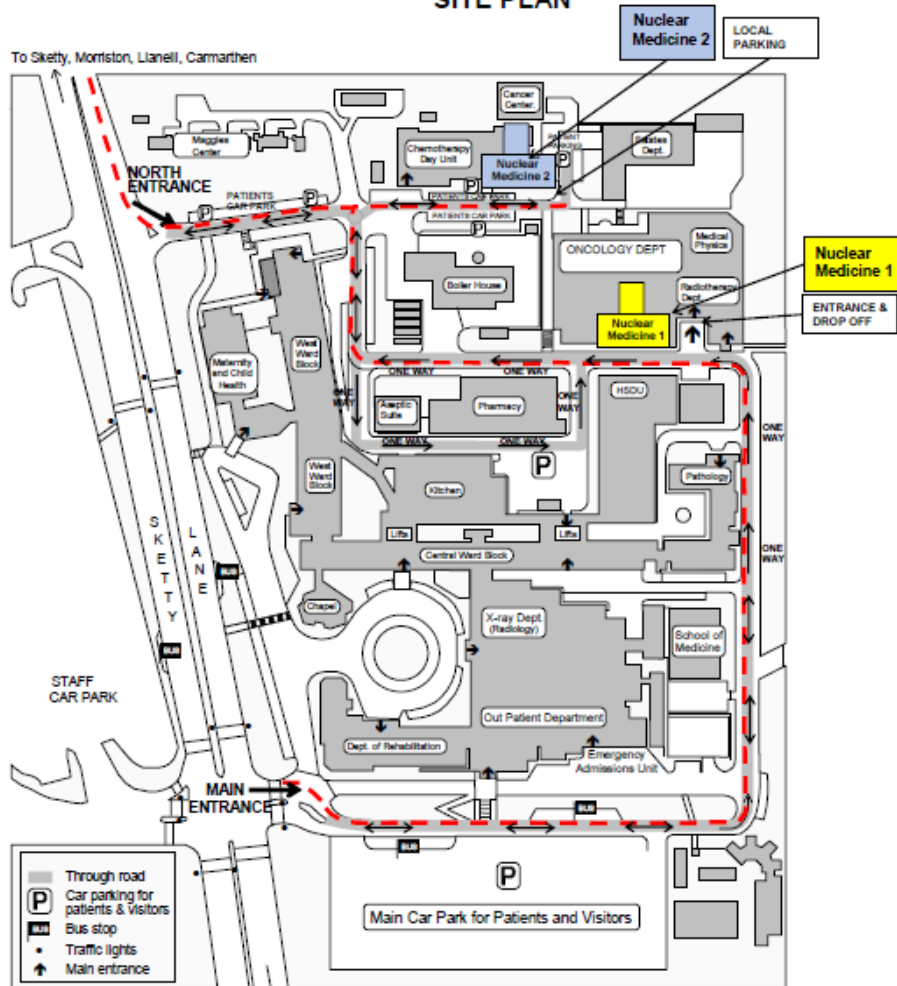
The benefit of having this test is to assess the function of your kidneys before/during or after your treatment.

Nuclear Medicine procedures are among the safest of diagnostic tests. The amount of radiation received during a GFR test will have been approved by a specialist. The typical amount of radiation from the entire examination is about the same as you would receive naturally over one month so the risks associated with it are considered to be very low. The injection and taking of blood samples will feel very similar to a routine blood test. Side effects associated with the radioactive tracer are extremely rare.

The test is not uncomfortable, apart from the scratch from the injection needle. The injection and taking of blood samples will feel very similar to a routine blood test.

# Singleton Hospital

## SITE PLAN



## SINGLETON HOSPITAL NUCLEAR MEDICINE

### Your Kidney Function Test (GFR) Appointment

Please read this leaflet carefully and attend **Nuclear Medicine 2** for the appointment shown below

Name

Hospital No

**Appointment Details**

Date

Time

**IMPORTANT**

**Please telephone (01792) 285295 if you are unable to attend.**

#### Directions from the M4 Motorway

From any of the junctions 42 to 47, follow Swansea City Centre signs initially, then follow directions for the Gower and the Mumbles. Singleton Hospital signs will be evident on the outskirts of the city. Sketty Lane is on the A4216.

