



# NUCLEAR MEDICINE

## WHAT TO DO AFTER HAVING AN INFECTION FOR A NUCLEAR MEDICINE SCAN

You are having a Nuclear Medicine scan. You have received a radioactive tracer called:

- 99m-Techneium     
  201-Thallium     
  67-Gallium     
  111-Indium

The radioactive tracer will become less radioactive through a natural process called radioactive decay. You will also pass this tracer from your body through your urine and stool. To help the radioactive tracer leave your body quicker, drink plenty of fluids for the next 24 hours. It is suggested that you wash your hands thoroughly after using the washroom. If possible, keep an arm's length away from pregnant loved ones, infants and young children for the rest of the day. There are no other restrictions with your regular daily activities.

If you are breastfeeding, please discuss instructions with the technologist.

Worldwide, an increasing number of sensitive radiation detectors have been installed at border crossings, in airports, public transportation facilities, large public events, and other ports of entry around the world. Nuclear Medicine patients are capable of being detected by these detectors. It is especially important to be aware that **all of the border crossings are equipped with radiation detectors**. As a Nuclear Medicine patient, you will most likely trigger these detectors. Depending upon the radioactive tracer used for your scan, you **may** be detectable for an extended period of time as indicated below.

This sheet will **not** prevent you from being pulled over at the border; however, it will provide you with an explanation as to why you have triggered a radiation detector. Our feedback from patients tells us that you **may** encounter a delay of 20-30 minutes before allowed entrance to the USA. Please know that there is a slight chance you may be denied entrance.

RADIOACTIVE TRACER	NUMBER OF DAYS YOU MAY BE DETECTABLE
99m-Techneium	3
111-Indium	14
67-Gallium	30
201-Thallium	30
131-Iodine (Therapy)	95

If you have any questions in this regard, please call the appropriate Nuclear Medicine Department at Niagara Health.

- ST. CATHARINES SITE     
  NIAGARA FALLS SITE     
  WELLAND SITE  
 905-378-4647                     
 905-378-4647                     
 905-378-4647  
 EXT: 46433                        
 EXT: 53410                        
 EXT: 33328

Reference:

- i) [Triggering Radiation Alarm at Security Checks: Brief Review](#), Hellenic Journal of Nuclear Medicine, January – April 2009; 12(1): 47-50  
 ii) IAEA – TECDOC-1312: [Detection of Radioactive Materials at the Border](#)