

CT Scan

What is a CT?

Computed Tomography (CT) is a method of looking inside the body using specialized x-ray technology. A very thin x-ray beam is passed through sections of the body to create highly detailed images of anatomy. Your doctor may order the scan with contrast to better distinguish your anatomy.

How do I prepare for a CT?

-If your doctor has ordered a scan of your abdomen and/or pelvis with oral contrast, please follow the Oral Contrast Instructions on the back of this card.

-If you are over 70 or have diabetes or kidney disease, and your doctor has ordered a scan with IV contrast, Big Sky will need current lab results to check your kidney function.

-If your doctor has ordered your scan with IV contrast, it is preferable that you not eat for four hours prior to your scan. Water is acceptable in moderation.

-If none of these apply to you, no special preparation is needed.

We will contact you prior to your appointment to confirm your scheduled time and to let you know your estimated financial responsibility.

It is imperative that you inform us if you have had a previous adverse reaction to IV contrast (sometimes referred to as dye), are pregnant, or may be pregnant!

What happens during a CT?

After you have completed your paperwork, the technologist will visit with you about your health and why you are having the scan. Then the technologist will position you on a special table that will move in and out of the scanner as the pictures are taken. You may be given instructions to hold your breath to prevent blurring of the images.

If IV contrast is ordered, the technologist will prepare the injection and you will be scanned shortly after the contrast is injected.

The entire exam ordinarily takes between 10 and 20 minutes to complete.



DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING
OF BILLINGS

Your Appointment

Date Time

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Oral Contrast Instructions

Except for the instructions below, do not eat or drink anything other than water for four (4) hours prior to your exam time.

1. Drink one bottle (450 mL) of the oral contrast (Readi-Cat 2) 90 minutes prior to your exam time.
2. Drink 2/3 of a bottle (300 mL) of the oral contrast (Readi-Cat 2) 30 minutes prior to your exam time.
3. Bring the remaining 1/3 of a bottle (150 mL) of the oral contrast with you to your exam. You will be asked to drink this immediately prior to the scan.

If you are allergic to barium sulfate, do not drink the contrast!

How do I find out the results?

The radiologist will study your examination and will give the report to your doctor. Then your doctor will discuss the results with you and explain what they mean in relation to your health. Results cannot be given directly to the patient or family.

Visit bigskyct.com/patient to fill out your paperwork ahead of time and to get complete answers to more questions you might have.

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