

A CAT scan, computerized axial tomography or computer assisted tomography, combines the use of computers and X-rays to obtain specialized images of your brain, organs and/or bones. During the procedure a very thin beam of X-ray is focused on a specific part of your body. The X-ray tube moves very rapidly around this area, enabling multiple images to be made from different angles to create a cross-sectional image.

Lawrence Memorial Hospital 170 Governors Ave Medford, MA 02155

From Cambridge & Arlington: Take Route 60 East into Medford Square. Turn left onto Governors Avenue. Lawrence Memorial Hospital will be on the left.

From 93 North/South: Take 93 to Exit 33 and take the rotary to South Border Road. Turn left onto Governors Avenue. Lawrence Memorial Hospital will be on the right.

Melrose-Wakefield Hospital 585 Lebanon Street Melrose, MA 02176

From Boston/93 North: Take 93 North to Exit 34, you will merge onto Route 28. Take a right at the first set of lights onto South Street. Stay straight for approximately 9/10 of a mile on South Street. After passing the Stone Zoo and approaching Spot Pond on your right, get into the left lane. (You will see "To Melrose" and blue H (hospital) signs). Take your first left. At the set of lights, turn left onto the Lynn Fells Parkway (J.J. Grimsby's is on the corner). At the third set of lights, turn right onto Main Street. The hospital is two blocks down on the left.

From Northshore/93 South: Take 93 South to Exit 35, Melrose/Winchester Highlands. Bear left at the end of the ramp then take a right at the stop sign, continue through the lights (Friendly's Ice Cream on corner) onto South Street. Stay straight for approximately 9/10 of a mile on South Street. After passing the Stone Zoo and approaching Spot Pond on your right, get into the left lane. (You will see "To Melrose" and blue H (hospital) signs). Take your first left. At the set of lights, turn left onto the Lynn Fells Parkway (J.J. Grimsby's is on the corner). At the third set of lights, turn right onto Main Street. The hospital is two blocks down on the left.

From Northshore/ Route 1: Route 1 Southbound, take the Lynn Fells Parkway exit in Saugus (at Russo's Candy Store). Turn left at the third set of lights onto Main Street. The hospital is two blocks down on your left.

From Boston/Route 1: Take Route 1 North, take the Essex Street/Melrose exit in Saugus. Take a right off of the exit ramp and over the Route 1 bridge toward Melrose. Essex Street will become Upham Street, Melrose. Continue to first set of lights (Lebanon Street). Turn right, and the hospital is two blocks up on your right.

Hallmark Health Medical Center at Reading

From the North (93 South, I-95 North/MA-128 North): Exit 39 - North Avenue toward Reading/Wakefield. Left onto North Avenue. North Avenue becomes Walkers Brook Drive. Left onto New Crossing Road. 30 New Crossing Road on Left.

From the South (93 North, I-95 North/MA-128 North): Exit 39 - North Avenue toward Reading/Wakefield. Left onto North Avenue. North Avenue becomes Walkers Brook Drive. Left onto New Crossing Road. 30 New Crossing Road on Left.



www.hallmarkhealth.org

Hallmark Health System is the premier, charitable provider of vital health services to Boston's northern communities. The system includes Lawrence Memorial Hospital of Medford; Melrose-Wakefield Hospital, Melrose; Hallmark Health Cancer Center, Stoneham; The CHEM Center for MRI, Stoneham; Hallmark Health Medical Center, Reading; Hallmark Health VNA and Hospice, Malden; Lawrence Memorial/Regis College Nursing and Radiography Programs, Medford and Ell Pond Medical Associates. Hallmark Health is affiliated with Massachusetts General Hospital for cardiology and Tufts-New England Medical Center for neonatology.

Computerized Tomography (CT)



Imaging Services



www.hallmarkhealth.org

Thank you for choosing Hallmark Health System Imaging services. We are committed to providing you with the best possible and most respectful care. Our organization is dedicated to providing state-of-the-art technology and quality Computerized Tomography (CT) scanning to patients.



What is a CT exam?

CT is an abbreviation for computed tomography. CT is a valuable diagnostic tool that combines X-rays and powerful computers. This combination produces detailed images of your brain, organs and/or bones. CT scans have been performed for over 30 years.

What are the reasons for a CT Exam?

CT exams are prescribed when your doctor suspects a medical problem that cannot be easily detected with a routine physical examination or X-ray.

What should I expect?

The CT exam itself is painless. The CT Technologist will escort you into the CT scanning room. You will see a table and a large, doughnut shaped device called a gantry. The technologist will have you lie down on the padded table and assure that you are comfortable. You will be asked to hold still during the exam. You may be asked to hold your breath for a short time to minimize body movement.

During the exam, you will hear a humming noise from the gantry. You may notice the table moving while the images are being taken. The technologist will monitor you during the exam through the window and will communicate with you via an intercom.

How long will the exam take?

The exam will take about 10-20 minutes depending on the scan.

How should I dress?

If you are having your head scanned, dress in comfortable clothing. For all other exams, you may be asked to change into a gown. You will also be asked to remove any jewelry from the area we are scanning.

How do I prepare for the exam?

Take your regular medications that have been prescribed by your physician. You should not eat or drink for three hours prior to your appointment. If your test requires oral contrast you will be given instructions when you pick them up.

What should I bring to my exam?

Please bring a list of medications you are taking. Also bring a detailed list of any allergies you may have.

What is contrast and are IVs or shots involved?

Depending on the exam, a solution called "contrast" may be administered with an IV to help improve the accuracy of the exam. It is always imperative you let us know if you have had any allergic reactions to contrast, or if you have any other allergies to iodine-based products. You can always call the CT department if you have any questions.

There are 2 types of contrast, oral and intravenous (IV).

Oral Contrast: Most patients having Abdominal or Pelvic CT scans will be asked to drink contrast prior to scanning. This may be used in addition to IV contrast. This prep coats the stomach and intestines to highlight them during scanning.

Intravenous (IV): Depending on your symptoms and the area to be scanned, the blood vessels may need to be clearly identified. If so, a small needle will be inserted in your arm and contrast will be injected. Images will be acquired during the injection. You may experience a warm flush feeling during the injection. You may also feel a little nauseous during the injection. These symptoms usually pass quickly.

The contrast is removed by your kidneys and you will not notice any changes in your urine color.

How safe are CT exams?

As with any Radiologic exam (X-Ray, CT), there is a certain amount of radiation exposure. However, CT has been approved by the U.S Food and Drug Administration. CT is a safe and effective diagnostic tool for identifying disease.

What happens after the CT has been completed?

You can go back to your normal routine of eating and drinking. If you have had oral or IV contrast plenty of fluids are recommended.

When will I receive my results?

Your physician will be sent the results of your exam when they have been interpreted by the Radiologist. This typically takes 24-36 hours.

Where do I pick up my prep?

The preps can be picked up at any of our Imaging locations.

If you are unable to keep your appointment, please call 781-338-7111.