



# Western Washington Medical Group

## What to Expect: CT

### What is CT?

- CT uses computer software to combine a series of x-ray images taken from different angles into cross-sectional images of your body. You will be exposed to a low dose of ionizing radiation.

### What will I need to know when scheduling?

- If your provider has ordered an exam with contrast, you will be asked about allergies to iodine or x-ray contrast. You will also be asked about any history of diabetes, hypertension, or renal disease.
- The scheduler will ask if you have had any imaging of the same body part. These images will be requested and compared to your new images.

### How should I prepare?

- You may be asked to change into metal-free, cotton clothing for your exam.
- You should remove all jewelry and metal in the area of the scan prior to your exam.
- Leave valuables and personal belongings at home. Phones, keys, and wallets can be locked in a locker or your dressing room.
- Some exams require you to be fasting and/or an oral contrast solution. Your scheduler will provide instructions if this applies to your exam.
- Some patients will require a lab draw be completed prior to the scan to check your kidney function.

### What happens during the exam?

- You will be asked to lay as still as possible so the scanner can obtain clear pictures.
- Some tests will require you to follow certain breathing instructions.
- If you are receiving IV contrast, you may experience a brief warming sensation or experience a metallic taste in your mouth.

### What happens after the exam?

- A radiologist will review your images and create a report to be sent to your provider. In most cases, a report will be dictated by the end of the day.
- Your referring provider will either request you schedule an appointment or they may contact you by phone to discuss results.