

If there is a chance you could be pregnant, please tell the tech.

Renal Scan

A renal scan is a test that shows the size, shape and function of your kidneys using a radioactive tracer. The amount of radiation used in this test is small and well within limits that are not harmful to you. You will have the test the Nuclear Medicine Department. It lasts about 1 hour.

Before the test

There is no special preparation for the test.

On the day of the test, plan to arrive 15 minutes before the test is scheduled to begin. Be sure to bring your:

- Physician's written order for the test if you have one
- List of allergies
- List of all your current medications (prescription, over-the-counter and herbal)
- Photo ID
- Medical insurance information
- Medicare card (Medicare patients only)

Come to the 8th floor Reception Desk in Galter Pavilion, 201 East Huron Street.

Parking is available for patients and visitors in the garage at 222 East Huron Street, across from Feinberg and Galter pavilions. For a discounted rate, bring your parking ticket with you. You can validate your ticket at the Customer Services Desks on the 1st, 2nd and 8th floors of Feinberg and Galter pavilions, and the 1st floor of Prentice Women's Hospital.

During the test

When you arrive in the Nuclear Medicine Department, a nurse or technologist (tech) will ask you questions about your medical history.

If you think you might be pregnant or are breastfeeding, please tell the tech before the start of the test and before you are given an injection.

The tech will ask you to lie on an imaging table. They will put an intravenous (IV) line into a vein in your arm or hand. They will give you an injection of the radioactive tracer. A special camera will show the flow of the tracer to your kidneys. The tech will take pictures of your kidneys and bladder for about 30 minutes. At the end of this time, the tech will ask you to empty your bladder. Then, they will take another picture of your kidneys.

After the test

You may go back to your normal activities and diet after the test. The radioactive tracer you were given is not harmful and becomes nonradioactive within hours.

Talk with your physician about your test results. You can get a copy of your test results about 1 week after the test from the Medical Records Department on the 2nd floor of Galter Pavilion.

If you have any questions about this test, please call the Nuclear Medicine Department at 312.926.2340 (TTY: 711) Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 5:00 pm.