YOUR ISOTOPE LUNG SCAN EXPLAINED

What is a Lung scan?
It is a method of obtaining images to show the blood supply to your lungs, which shows information not seen on normal x-rays.

What does it involve?
You will receive a small injection into a vein in your arm, after which four pictures will be taken of your lungs. The scan will be performed with you sitting, and although you will not need to undress we will ask you to remove metallic objects such as coins, pendants and necklaces.

Do I need to prepare for the scan?
No special preparation is needed, and there is no need to stop taking any prescribed tablets.

Are there any side effects?
There are no ill-effects from this test at all.

What about the radiation?
The amount of radiation is similar to that of a chest x-ray. The only precaution needed is to avoid prolonged close contact with small children and pregnant ladies for the rest of the day.

Is there anything I should tell the Radiographer before the scan?
YES. Please ring us if the Doctor has ever said you have a ‘Hole in your Heart’
YES. Ladies Please tell us before the injection if there is any possibility of you being pregnant or if you are currently breastfeeding. This test must be performed within 28 days of the start of your last period so if your appointment falls outside this please contact the department.