



What are X-rays?

Information for Patients

What is an X-ray examination?

An X-ray is the most commonly used of all diagnostic imaging tests. It takes a single image, like a photograph, of the inside of your body. It is a quick and easy examination to have. Most often, it is the first type of diagnostic imaging a doctor will ask for.

Are there any risks?

When you have an X-ray, you are exposed to a small amount of a specific type of radiation called ionising radiation. This kind of radiation is very low in energy and is similar to the background radiation we get from the environment which we are exposed to as part of everyday life. It is the radiographer's responsibility to ensure that the radiation you are exposed to when you come for your examination is as low as reasonably practicable and that the reason for your examination is justified. This is the reason the radiographer may clarify details with you, prior to starting the examination and also check your identity.

Giving your consent for an X-ray

When you attend for your X-ray examination, the radiographer will ask if you are happy for the examination to occur. This is known as verbal consent. They will also check that the test your doctor has asked for is the most appropriate one. If you do not feel happy to proceed with the examination, please inform the Radiographer.

During your X-ray

You may need to prepare beforehand for your examination; this will be clearly highlighted in your appointment letter. Depending on the examination you are having, you may be asked to change into a gown. You may also be asked to remove items containing metal, such as jewellery or surgical braces, before the X-ray can take place. Depending on the types of X-ray, you may need to stand, sit or lie down on the X-ray table. You should not need to hold a specific position for too long. The



radiographer can assist you to get on and off the table and help position you for the examination.

After your X-ray

In most instances you will be able to go home or back to clinic after the examination. There are no after effects. The X-rays will be reviewed by a consultant radiologist or an advanced practice radiographer who will make a formal report. The results will be sent to the referring doctor. It is important to remember to contact your referring doctor to arrange an appointment to get your results. Reports are usually back within 5-7 working days.

Where to find us

Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (SASH) diagnostic imaging has four locations across Surrey and Sussex where you can attend for an X-ray when requested by your GP or dentist.

East Surrey Hospital

Open Monday-Friday between 9am-4:30pm. You do not need to make an appointment. If you require any assistance please call 01737 231 604 in advance. The X-ray department is located near the main entrance of the hospital. Please use the visitors' car park if you travel by car.

Crawley Hospital

At Crawley, you can attend Monday-Friday 9am-4:30pm. You do not need an appointment to attend for X-rays at Crawley Hospital but if you require assistance please call 01293 600 300 x3374.

Horsham Hospital

If your request is marked as urgent by your GP, there is a walk-in service 9am-4:30pm. For all other requests please phone 01403 227 000 x7136 to make an appointment.

Caterham Dene Hospital

Caterham Dene Hospital attendance is via appointment only. The department is open Monday-Friday 9am-4:30pm with limited slots available on Saturday and Sunday 10am- 5pm. Please call 01737 231604 to arrange an appointment.

Further information

If you need to cancel, change your appointment or have any concerns/queries about your examination, please contact the X-ray department on: 01737 231604 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm).

Directions, parking and travel information for East Surrey Hospital and Crawley Hospital is available on our website at www.surreyandsussex.nhs.uk/finding-us/

Contact Us

Diagnostic Imaging Department
East Surrey Hospital
Redhill Surrey RH1 5RH
Tel: 01737 768511

www.surreyandsussex.nhs.uk

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

Telephone: 01737 231 958

Email: [**pals@sash.nhs.uk**](mailto:pals@sash.nhs.uk)

Write to: PALS, East Surrey Hospital
Redhill, Surrey RH1 5RH

You can also ask a member of staff to contact PALS on your behalf.

This information can be made available in other languages and formats, including in larger text. Contact 01737 231 958 for help.

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