

Nuclear Medicine

Information for Patients Leaving the Country

WHY DO I NEED THIS ADVICE?

The government has recently installed very sensitive radiation detectors at ports and airports. There is a small chance that, for a short time after your visit, the very low levels of radioactivity left in your body may be enough to set off these alarms. This letter is to explain to the officials at the port or airport that you have had a Nuclear Medicine examination and should save you being delayed.

WHAT DO I NEED TO TAKE WITH ME?

Please take your appointment letter and this leaflet. Airport staff have been told about Nuclear Medicine patients and these should be all you need.

WHAT SHOULD I SAY?

Just tell the staff that you have had a Nuclear Medicine examination and show them this leaflet and your appointment letter. The paragraph below titled "Government advice" is an official form of words that they will be expecting to see.

GOVERNMENT ADVICE

"It has come to our attention that there are extremely sensitive radiation detectors in place in some train stations, airports and seaports around the world. These monitors can detect extremely small quantities of radiation and it is just possible that, until the radioactivity from this test has completely left your body, you may trigger one of these detectors. In the unlikely event that this occurs, there is no reason to be concerned. Customs officials who operate these types of detectors are experienced in understanding what the detector has picked up, and after asking you a few simple questions and conducting a brief non-intrusive examination with a hand held detector, will let you pass on your way as soon as possible. Different countries have different procedures and some may wish to see your appointment letter as part of this process. If you are planning to travel in the near future it is recommended you carry this letter with you. Please ask a member of the department staff for advice on how long your body is likely to retain traces of the radioactivity, and therefore whether carrying your letter will be necessary."

HOW LONG AFTER MY EXAMINATION CAN THIS HAPPEN?

This will depend on the type of examination you have had. Please make sure that the person doing your test has ticked one of the boxes below.

- One week. Three months.