

# X-RAY

## INFORMATION SHEET

### **What are X-rays?**

Radiographs are pictures taken using a form of electromagnetic radiation called x-rays. The x-rays can pass through the body allowing images of internal structures such as bone, lungs, heart etc. The radiation dose from x-rays are very low, a chest x-ray being similar to a few days of background radiation.

### **What preparation is required?**

Although no preparation is required for this service, it is important to let the radiographer know if you are, or might be, pregnant.

### **What happens during an X-ray?**

The radiographer will call you in and confirm your name. You may be asked to change into a gown and/or remove jewellery as appropriate to the area to be x-rayed. They will then position you on the machine and take one or more pictures. It is important to hold still so the pictures are clear and concise. You will not feel anything while the pictures are taken, and there are no after effects. The entire procedure usually takes less than 15 minutes.

### **When can I expect the results of the x-ray?**

As a rule, all x-rays are reported by our radiologists the same day, at which point the doctor who requested the procedure will receive the result electronically. If it is urgent, we will report it as soon as possible after the film is taken and can phone the result to the requesting doctor if necessary. If you have previous films, it is helpful if you bring them with you as the radiologist may want to compare the new film with old ones to provide a better and more accurate report.