

## Your appointment:

**Date:** .....

**Time:** .....

**Location:**

.....  
Please see our website or the back of this form for more branch details.

## Duration of Examination:

The scanning process can take between 1.5 and 2.5 hours.

## Please bring with you:

- Your request form
- All previous relevant imaging
- Medicare and any Healthcare cards

## Payment on the day of the examination is requested.

For more information on this procedure please call one of our branches.

For more information regarding Benson Radiology please visit:  
[www.bensonradiology.com.au](http://www.bensonradiology.com.au)

# Nuclear Medicine Biliary Scan

## Patient Information Sheet No. NM 2

### What is a Biliary Scan?

A Nuclear Medicine Biliary Scan is used to evaluate the function of your gallbladder.

### Preparation needed prior to the examination:

You are required to:

- Fast for 6-8 hours prior to your appointment. It is important that you do not fast for more than 24 hours.
- Stop taking morphine or any codeine-based painkillers for 24 hours.
- Do not smoke for 24 hours prior to the test.

### What will happen during the examination?

The examination involves a small injection into a vein in your arm. The injection is a radioactive tracer which is taken up by your liver. The tracer is then processed by the liver, before collecting in your gallbladder in the same way as bile.

Images of your gallbladder are taken for an hour immediately after the injection. You will be positioned lying flat on your back on the scanning bed with the special gamma camera just above your abdomen. If your gallbladder is not seen after one hour, you may be given a small injection of morphine. The morphine will help your bile ducts contract and thus allow the tracer to go into the gallbladder. If you have this injection there will be a 15 minute wait followed by a further three minutes of imaging.

If your gallbladder is seen after the first hour and the doctor wants to know how well it is contracting, then further imaging is required. You will be given a glass of full cream milk. This will encourage your gallbladder to contract. As your body needs time to process the milk, there will be a wait of one hour before a further 3 minutes of imaging is performed. You may leave the department during this wait if you wish. After the procedure you are allowed to eat and resume daily activities as normal.

### Are there any risks?

This examination has no associated side effects.

### Pregnant and Breast Feeding Patients, and Carers of Infants:

This examination is **not suitable** for pregnant women.

Breastfeeding mothers may undergo the procedure, but will need to **cease breast feeding for 12 hours after** the scan. Breast milk should be expressed and discarded during this period. Breast feeding may resume after the 12 hours.

Carers of infants and young children should avoid prolonged close contact for 12 hours following the scan. Maintaining a distance of one metre from infants and young children is recommended.

### After the examination:

The nuclear medicine specialist will review and report on your images. This can take up to 90 minutes. For your convenience we can generally deliver the images and report to your doctor by the next working day. Alternatively your doctor may request that you return later to collect the imaging and report.

It is important you understand why and how we will be assisting you. If you have any questions, please call one of our branches or speak to our staff on the day of your visit.