You are scheduled for a DaTscan™ on: ____________________________ at __________

Please arrive in TC100 20 minutes prior to your appointment time to register for the test.

**What is a DaTscan™?**
A DaTscan™ is performed to tell the difference between symptoms of Parkinson’s syndrome and symptoms of essential tremors. The test includes an injection of a radioactive tracer. The amount of radiation used in this test is small, and well within limits that are safe. The total test time is about five (5) hours.

**How to prepare for the exam:**
There is no special preparation for this test. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring a list of all your current medications with you.

**NOTE:** Patients who are pregnant or may be pregnant should consult their physician prior to having this test. Patients who are allergic to iodine cannot have this test.

**How is the exam performed?**
A technologist will confirm your identity, the test to be performed and ask if you have any allergies. A radiologist will review your list of medications to confirm you can have the test safely. The technologist will give you four (4) ounces of juice or water with a small amount of iodine in it. This stops your thyroid from absorbing the radioactive iodine. The iodine needs to circulate for one hour before giving you the radioactive iodine injection used to perform the imaging procedure. After the hour has passed the technologist will access your vein by inserting an intravenous (IV) line in your arm and inject a small amount of radioactive iodine into your vein. The iodine needs to circulate for 3 hours before pictures are taken. You will be allowed to leave the department during this time and you will be given a time to return. When you return to the department the technologist will assist you onto the imaging table. You will lie on your back for the test and pictures of your head will be taken. The camera will be very close to your head, but will not touch you or make any noise. It is very important to remain still for this procedure. The camera will move slowly in a circle around your head for about 30 minutes.

**How long does it take?**
You will be at the medical center for about 5 hours. The test requires a delay of three (3) hours between the injection of the radioactive iodine and actual imaging procedure.

**After the Test**
You may resume your normal activities and diet after the test. A Nuclear Medicine physician will interpret the exam and the results will be sent to the physician who ordered the test. If you have any questions about the procedure or cannot keep the appointment, please call the Nuclear Medicine scheduling staff at 773-702-6161. It is very important to provide at least 3 days advanced notice if cancelling or rescheduling this procedure, the dose is specially ordered well in advance from an outside pharmacy and they require advanced notice of cancellations.