You are scheduled for a Brain SPECT on: ________________________ at ________________

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

What is a Brain SPECT?
A Brain SPECT is a nuclear medicine procedure used to assess neurodegenerative diseases like stroke, seizure, and to evaluate memory loss. The total test time is about three hours (3) 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:
1. Patients who are pregnant or may be pregnant should consult their physician before having this test.
2. The radioactive tracer for this test is ordered from an outside pharmacy specifically for your exam. The pharmacy requires a three (3) day notice of cancellation. Therefore, if you need to cancel or reschedule your test, please provide us with a minimum of a three (3) day notice.

How is the exam performed?
When you arrive in the Nuclear Medicine Department a technologist will confirm your identity and ask questions about your medical history. He/she will place an intravenous (IV) catheter in a vein in your hand or arm. After the IV has been inserted, the technologist will place you in a dimly lit room for about twenty (20) minutes, so that your senses are not overly stimulated. This ensures that the radioactive tracer distributes evenly in your brain. After you have relaxed, the technologist will inject the radioactive tracer through the IV. The amount of radioactivity is small and well within limits that are safe. The radioactive material needs to circulate for approximately forty five minutes (45) before performing the imaging procedure. After forty five minutes (45) have passed the technologist will assist you onto the imaging table. You will lie on your back for the test. 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 three (3) hours. The test requires a delay of forty five minutes (45) between the injection of the radioactive tracer and the 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.