You are scheduled for a Bone Scan on __________________________ at _____________.

Please report to TC100 in Mitchell Hospital 20 minutes before your appointment time to register for the test.

ABOUT THE TEST
Your doctor has ordered a bone scan that can show bone disease. The test includes 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 3 to 4 hours.

NOTE: If you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant please tell your physician or make the scheduler aware of your condition.

PREPARATION FOR THE TEST
There is no preparation for the test.

DURING THE TEST
When you arrive in the Nuclear Medicine Department, a technologist will ask you questions about your medical history. You will then be injected with a small amount of a radioactive tracer in a vein in your hand or arm. The tracer travels through the blood and after 2 to 3 hours it is absorbed by the bones. After the injection, you should drink plenty of water unless you have another test that restricts fluid intake. There are no adverse side effects from the injection. The technologist will ask you to return to the Nuclear Medicine Department approximately 2 to 3 hours later.

When you return to the department you will be asked to empty your bladder. You will be asked to lie down on a table and a scan of your entire body (head to toe) will be performed. The camera moves slowly over your body as you lie on the imaging table. When this is done the technologist will take additional images of your head, arms and ribs. A physician will review your bone scan and, in some cases, will ask for extra images to obtain more detailed information. The scan takes about 1 to 1 ½ hours to complete. You will be at the medical center a total of 4 to 5 hours.

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 your physician. If you have any questions about the procedure or cannot keep the appointment, please call Nuclear Medicine at 773-702-0336.