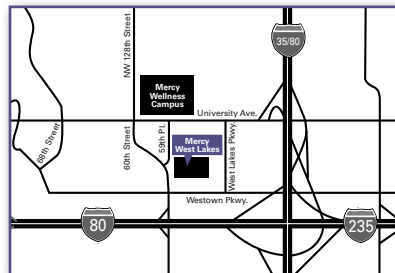
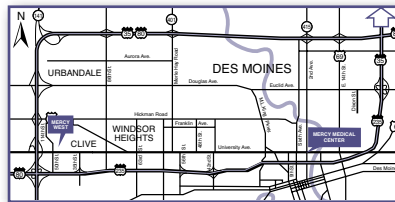
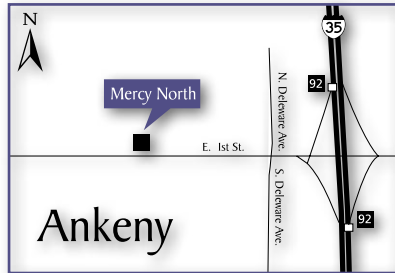


Your appointment

Date: _____

Time: _____

Location: _____



Mercy Medical Center

1111 6th Ave., Des Moines
515-247-4357

Parking is available in the West Ramp or through Valet at the West Entrance. Enter through West Entrance and register at the Medical Imaging Registration Office.

Mercy West

1601 NW 114th St., Suite 149, Clive
515-222-7550

Park in the lower level parking lot (northeast side of building). Enter through Main Entrance and register in Suite 149.

Mercy North

800 E. First St., Suite 1100, Ankeny
515-643-7676

Park on the south side of the building and enter through main entrance.

Mercy West Lakes

1601 60th St., West Des Moines
515-358-8250



CT Scan

If you have questions about the procedure or your appointment, please call the Medical Imaging department at your scheduled location.



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Your doctor has requested a Computerized Tomography (CT) Scan procedure. To help you prepare, the following information outlines what to expect.

CT is an X-ray procedure enhanced by the use of a computer. It is a simple, safe and painless examination that has been available for many years. This results in a three-dimensional view, or slice, of a particular part of your body. The computer is able to put together the series of slices and create a three-dimensional view, clearly showing both bone and soft tissues.

During some CT scans, a special dye also called contrast material is injected through an IV, which outlines the blood vessels and highlights organs of the body. An oral contrast, one which you drink, is routinely given for CT exams of the abdomen or pelvis to help differentiate organs from other organs or abnormalities. The oral contrast outlines the gastrointestinal system, stomach, small bowel, colon and rectum.

CT scans can detect many conditions that do not show up on conventional X-rays. Your doctor has ordered this exam to help make an accurate diagnosis of your condition. The results help determine the best course of treatment for you.

How do I prepare for the exam?

Prior to your CT scan, you will be asked to fill out a brief history form specific for this test, and the technologist will explain the exam to you. If the IV contrast is needed, you, or a family member if you are unable, will be asked to sign a consent form. For exams requiring contrast, a current creatinine may be required (within 30 days). Creatinine is a blood test drawn in the Imaging department, the lab, or at your physician's office that evaluates your kidney function.

You will also be asked to remove any jewelry, clothing or objects that may be in the path of the X-ray beam. If an oral contrast is to be used during your CT scan, you will be asked to not eat or drink anything two hours prior to your exam. If your CT exam requires the IV contrast, a small needle will be inserted, usually in your arm.

What happens during the exam?

You will be asked to lie still on the CT table that is connected to the CT scanner. You may be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds. The part of your body that is to be scanned will be positioned in the middle of the large cylinder shaped scanner. The scanner is open on both ends. During this brief time, you will hear the humming of the equipment as it produces the images. You also may feel slight movement of the table. The exam usually takes 15-45 minutes. This includes preparing you for the examination and time for the computer to generate the images. Actual exposure time is minimal.

Plan for a 30 – 60 minute visit.

What happens after the exam?

You may return to normal activities following your exam. If you are a diabetic on medication, consult with your doctor before resuming medication.

How do I get my results?

A radiologist will review your exam and send a report to your health care provider within 1 - 2 business days. Your healthcare provider will review the report and contact you with the results.