Preparing For Radiology & Imaging Services

Your Guide To MRIs, CT Scans, Ultrasound, Fluoroscopy, Echocardiography & Interventional Radiology
Your Appointment

At the Ira C. Clark Diagnostic Treatment Center at Jackson Memorial Hospital, we strive to provide leading-edge diagnostic imaging while ensuring the highest level of service to all our guests. Our team, which includes board-certified radiologists, technologists, registered nurses, and support staff, makes your comfort and convenience a priority – daily.

What To Expect

When you arrive for your appointment, our staff will verify your personal information, including your identity and insurance. You will also provide consent to receive treatment. This usually takes 10-15 minutes, although it may take longer to register if your information has changed, or if you have questions about the clinical information provided by your physician.

What To Bring

- Valid photo ID
- Payer authorization
- Insurance card
- Lab results
- Co-pay or deductible
- Current medication list

Once checked in, you will receive your prescribed radiology service.

MRI & CT Scans

CT scans, or computed tomography scans, use x-rays to take a series of pictures, or “slices,” which can provide clear 3D images of the body.

MRIs use magnetic fields and radio waves to obtain images of your body in greater detail, which helps differentiate between normal and abnormal tissue.

Before An MRI Or CT Scan

If your prescription for MRI or CT contains the words “with contrast”:

- Don’t eat or drink anything besides clear liquid for two hours prior to the procedure.
- Bring your BUN/creatinine test results with you if your test was performed less than 30 days prior to your appointment date at a facility other than Jackson. If you do not have these lab results, or they will be older than 30 days, contact your physician or call 305-585-6000.
- Tell your doctor and the radiology technologist about any known allergies or previous reactions to intravenous contrast. In such cases, you may be given a special preparation of a steroid and Benadryl before the procedure.
- If you have been prescribed an allergy medication, do not take your last dose on the day of your appointment until instructed by the technologist upon arrival for the scan.

If your prescription says “PO Contrast”:

- An oral contrast solution will be administered when you arrive and your CT scan will begin two hours after.

Please call the MRI Department at 305-585-6000 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. or the CT Department at 305-585-6000 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. if you have any additional questions about how to prepare for your procedure.
Ultrasound

Diagnostic ultrasound, also called sonography or diagnostic medical sonography, uses high-frequency sound waves to create images of organs and blood vessels, as well as detect problems in the abdomen, kidney, or heart.

Before An Ultrasound

For abdominal ultrasound exams, do not eat or drink anything eight hours before your exam. You may take any prescribed medications with water. For carotid, thyroid, testicular, arterial, and venous exams, you may eat and drink as normal.

Please call the Ultrasound Department at 305-585-6000 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. if you have additional questions about how to prepare for your exam.

There are no special preparations for routine OB or GYN ultrasounds. You may be asked to drink 24 to 32 ounces of water when you arrive, depending on your exam.

For sonohysterograms, amniocentesis, CVS procedures, or nuchal translucency, please call the OB/GYN Department at 305-585-6000 for specific instructions.

X-Ray

X-rays are quick and painless tests that use x-ray beams to produce images of structures inside your body, like bones. Sometimes, mediums like iodine or barium are used to provide greater detail.

For a general x-ray appointment, no special preparation is required.

For a barium enema, please follow these guidelines:

Adult Barium Enema Preparation

Two Days Before

- Don’t eat or drink anything solid, thickened or colored red.
- Don’t drink tea, coffee, milk, or milk products, or creamers. Only drink clear liquids.
- At 8 a.m., drink 10 ounces of Magnesium Citrate.
- At 1 p.m., take 2 Biscolyl (Dulcolax) tablets.
- Between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., drink eight glasses of water (8 ounces each).

One Day Before

At 5 p.m., drink 10 ounces of Magnesium Citrate.

The Morning Of The Exam

Do not eat or drink anything. You may take your medications with small sips of water.

Pediatric Preparation

For upper GI, esophagrams, IVP, and barium enemas, children up to one year of age should not eat for two hours prior to the exam. Children 1-2 years old should not eat for three hours prior to the exam.

Please call the Radiology Department at 305-585-6000 if you have questions about preparing for x-rays.

Echocardiography

An echocardiogram is a type of ultrasound that uses high-frequency sound waves and converts them into moving pictures. This type of diagnostic imaging creates images of the heart and provides more detailed information about the heart structures and blood flow without being invasive.

Before An Echocardiogram

No special preparations are necessary. For stress echocardiograms, do not eat or drink four hours prior to the procedure. Do not take any prescribed medications that morning. Please bring them with you.

Please call the Echocardiography Department at 305-585-6000 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. if you have additional questions about how to prepare for your procedure.

Interventional Radiology

Interventional radiology allows for minimally invasive treatment of nearly every organ system and combines multiple imaging modalities, such as X-ray, CT, ultrasound, and MRI.

Before Interventional Radiology

Do not eat or drink anything eight hours prior to your appointment. You may take your medicine with small sips
of water. Bring the medications or a list of the medications you are currently taking with you. Please leave any valuables, such as jewelry, at home.

You must be accompanied by someone that can drive you home. You may not drive or take public transportation without a responsible adult.

Failure to follow these procedures may result in rescheduling your exam. We will contact you prior to the procedure for a medical pre-screening interview and to make sure you know what to expect.

An interventional radiology procedure may take 8 to 10 hours. Please plan accordingly.

Please call the Interventional Radiology Department at 305-585-6000 if you have questions about preparing for your exam.

Prepare For Your Exams & Procedures

It’s important that patients follow preparation guidelines to ensure accurate results. If you have questions about scheduled exams or procedures, please call the appropriate department using the “Important Numbers” chart to the right.

Before A Nuclear Medicine Scan

For cardiac stress exams, do not eat or drink anything (including regular and decaffeinated coffee and tea) after midnight prior to your appointment. Take medications with water except for diabetic medications. Bring your diabetic medications with you. Allow four to five hours for the completion of the exam.

For PET/CT procedures, do not eat or drink anything other than water after midnight prior to your appointment and do not perform any strenuous exercise 24 hours prior to the exam. Take medications with water except for diabetic medications. Bring previous CT, MRI, and PET scan films if performed at another hospital. Allow two to three hours for the completion of the procedure.

Please call the Nuclear Medicine Department at 305-585-6000 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. if you have additional questions about how to prepare for your procedure.

Before A Breast Health Exam/Procedure

No special preparation is required. Please call the Taylor Breast Health Center/Roberta Orlen Chaplin Digital Breast Imaging Center at 305-585-6000 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. if you have any questions.

Authorizations And Finances

Because your physician may have already initiated or completed your authorization, you should check with your insurance provider regarding your status. Preauthorization may be required for the following exams:

- MRI
- CT
- PET scans
- Nuclear medicine
- Ultrasound
- Radiology oncology (for evaluation)

If you have any questions about your eligibility and coverage, please call 350-585-6000.

Important Numbers

Clark Diagnostic Treatment Center.................................... 305-585-6000
After-Hour, Weekend, And Holiday Assistance........................ 305-585-5381
MRI Department.................................................................. 305-585-5792
CT Department................................................................... 305-585-7576
Ultrasound Department....................................................... 305-585-7486
General Radiology Department........................................... 305-585-7881
Echocardiography Department............................................. 305-585-7946
Interventional Radiology Department................................. 305-585-8339
Nuclear Medicine Department............................................. 305-585-6345
Taylor/Chaplin Breast Health Center.................................... 305-585-7410
OB/GYN Ultrasound Department......................................... 305-585-7407

Don’t Forget!

- Provide physician information prior to your appointment to avoid rescheduling.
- Be sure to provide physician prescription documentation.
- Make sure your required laboratory test results are not older than 30 days prior to your appointment date.

Call 305-585-6000 for after-hour, weekend, and holiday assistance.
Getting To Your Appointment

For MRI, CT, Ultrasound, Nuclear Medicine, or Interventional Radiology appointments, access valet and guest drop-off from N.W. 19th Street at the Ira C. Clark Diagnostic Treatment Center.

Parking is available in the Blue Garage (North Garage) at 1600 N.W. 19th Street and is open 24/7. Enter the hospital main entrance on N.W. 19th Street for registration.

For Echocardiography and OB/GYN Ultrasound appointments, guests can be dropped off on N.W. 16th Street.

Parking is available in the Green Garage (Park Plaza West Garage) at 1140 N.W. 16th Street and is open 24/7.

For Echocardiography appointments, registration is located on the first floor of Holtz Children’s Hospital (East Tower).

For OB/GYN Ultrasound appointments, registration is located at Ambulatory Care Center (ACC) West on the 2nd floor.