

# NUCLEAR MEDICINE GUIDE FOR GPs

All studies **BULK BILLED** when Medicare eligible.

CONDITION/CLINICAL PRESENTATION	EXAMINATION TO REQUEST
<b>CARDIAC</b>	
Risk stratification of known coronary artery disease	Myocardial Perfusion Study
Diagnose coronary artery disease	Myocardial Perfusion Study
Inability to complete exercise stress test due to body habitus / injury	Myocardial Perfusion Study
<b>THYROID/PARATHYROID</b>	
Diagnose thyroid disease (Multi-nodular goitre, function of thyroid nodules)	Tc-99m Per technetate Thyroid Scan
Investigation of thyrotoxicosis (Graves, toxic nodule, subacute thyroiditis)	Tc-99m Per technetate Thyroid Scan
Detect parathyroid adenoma	Parathyroid Scan
<b>ORTHOPAEDIC</b>	
Confirm & localise facet joint activity for injection	Bone Scan
Identify occult bone trauma (sports injuries)	Bone Scan
Diagnose osteomyelitis or infected prosthesis	Bone Scan +/- Labelled White Cell Scan
Evaluate arthritic activity and extent	Bone Scan
Detection of stress fractures and shin splints	Bone Scan
Cancer Staging (identify bony metastases/primary bone cancer)	Bone Scan or PET Scan*
<b>RENAL</b>	
Measure differential renal function	Tc-99m DMSA or Tc-99m DTPA or Mag3 Scan
Detect renal scars	Tc-99m DMSA
<b>PULMONARY</b>	
Investigation of pulmonary hypertension	V/Q Lung Scan
Diagnose pulmonary emboli	V/Q Lung Scan
<b>GASTROINTESTINAL</b>	
Investigate gastroparesis / gastric dumping	Gastric Emptying Study
Detect acute gastrointestinal bleeding	Tc-99m Labelled Red Blood Cell Scan
Detect acute or chronic cholecystitis and biliary dyskinesia	HIDA Scan with fatty meal
<b>NEUROLOGICAL</b>	
Diagnose multi-infarct dementia	Cerebral Perfusion Study or PET Scan*
Diagnose Alzheimer's	Cerebral Perfusion Study or PET Scan*
Diagnose stroke	Cerebral Perfusion Study or PET Scan*
Evaluate post concussion syndrome	Cerebral Perfusion Study or PET Scan*

APPROX TIME FOR STUDY	
<b>Myocardial Perfusion Study (MPS)</b>	Up to 3 hours if done on a 1 day protocol
<b>Tc-99m Per technetate Thyroid Scan</b>	40 mins
<b>Parathyroid Scan</b>	1 hour. 2nd appointment may be required 2-4 hours later.
<b>Bone Scan</b>	1st appointment 10-15 minutes. Requires a 2nd appointment 2-4 hours later for imaging
<b>Tc-99m DTPA or Mag3 Scan</b>	1 hour
<b>Tc-99m DMSA</b>	1st appointment 10-15 minutes. Requires a 2nd appointment 2-4 hours later for imaging
<b>V/Q Lung Scan</b>	1 hour
<b>Gastric Emptying Study</b>	4 hours
<b>HIDA Scan with Fatty Meal</b>	2 hours
<b>Cerebral Perfusion Study (CPS)</b>	2 hours
<b>Tc-99m Labelled Red Blood Cell Scan</b>	Typically 1 hour, but may take up to 6 hours
<b>Tc-99m Labelled White Blood Cell Scan</b>	1st appointment 1 hour. Requires a 2nd appointment 3-4 hours later for imaging

\*Please note: CPS can assist in the differentiation of dementia syndromes, but PET/CT is more specific/sensitive for predicting onset and progression of disease (especially Alzheimer's). GPs can refer for PET/CT but a modest private fee will apply. Specialist PET/CT studies are bulk billed.

To talk to a Nuclear Medicine Physician, please call 1800 779 977 and our Referrer Help Desk team will direct your call.