

PAEDIATRIC NURSING PRACTICE MANUAL
SECTION 6

RADIOGRAPHIC AND IMAGING PROCEDURES

6.3 NUCLEAR MEDICINE

6.3.1 NUCLEAR MEDICINE INVESTIGATIONS

Bookings

1. The request form is required prior to a booking being made.
2. Urgent requests should be delivered directly to Nuclear Medicine department as early as possible to facilitate appropriate booking.
3. Bookings must include the:
 - type of study required;
 - consultant's name;
 - patient's name, date of birth and unit number;
 - patient's weight.

Patient preparation

1. Preparation will vary according to the type of scan and the patient's age. As not all Nuclear Medicine investigations require the patient to be fasted, check with Nuclear Medicine department for details of preparation for specific procedures.
2. If the patient has Intravenous (IV) additives (eg. morphine infusion, antibiotic, TPN / lipids), epidural, is sedated or febrile, the ward must provide a nurse for the duration of the study unless prior arrangements have been made.
3. IV access is required. If blood is taken prior to a Nuclear Medicine scan, IV access should be flushed and left in situ. IV access must be checked for patency immediately prior to leaving the ward.
4. **If sedation is required**, contact Nuclear Medicine department to discuss dosage recommendations. The medication chart must accompany all sedated patients.
5. The inpatient notes must accompany the child to the Diagnostic Imaging Department.

Following the procedure

All patients requiring General Anaesthetic or Sedation will require post procedural observation as per [PNPM 8.3.1](#) Postoperative/Procedural Care or [PNPM 2.11.1](#) Recommendations for Oral Conscious Sedation of Children Being Performed by Non Anaesthetic Personnel.

Following the procedure, the technologist must ensure that a copy of the form 'Instructions to ward staff following nuclear medicine procedures' is completed prior to returning to the ward. These instructions include advice on:

- the disposal of urine, faeces, vomitus and/or blood as appropriate
- procedure to be followed for radio active spills
- guidelines for personal protection

These instructions must accompany the patient at all times until precautions are no longer deemed necessary.