

Chest Radiography

Appointment Information

Date: _____ Time: _____ Location: _____

Address: _____

Notes: _____

About

The chest radiography (x-ray) is performed by radiologists to evaluate the lungs, heart and chest wall. Typically, a chest x-ray is the first test radiologists use to help diagnose certain symptoms, including shortness of breath, persistent cough, chest pain and fever.

During the chest x-ray, typically, two views of the chest are taken, one from the back and the other from the side of the body as you stand against the image recording plate. Patients who cannot stand may be positioned lying down on a table for chest x-rays.

You must hold very still and may be asked to keep from breathing for a few seconds while the x-ray picture is taken to reduce the possibility of a blurred image. The technologist will walk behind a wall or into the next room to activate the x-ray machine.

When the examination is complete, you will be asked to wait until the radiologist determines that all the necessary images have been obtained. The chest x-ray examination is usually completed within 15 minutes.

Preparations

A chest x-ray requires no special preparation.

You may be asked to remove some or all of your clothes and to wear a gown during the exam. You may also be asked to remove jewelry, removable dental appliances, eye glasses and any metal objects or clothing that might interfere with the x-ray images.

Women should always inform their physician or technologist if there is any possibility that they are pregnant.