

## Your appointment is at Northfield Hospital Campus

(2000 North Avenue)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check in at:

- Women's Health Center
- Hospital Front Desk
- Emergency Department

Diagnostic Imaging is a service of Northfield Hospital + Clinics.

Other Imaging Services include:

- General Radiology (X-ray)
- Computed Tomography (CT)
- PET/CT
- Fluoroscopy
- Diagnostic Ultrasound
- Digital Mammography
- Echocardiography
- Nuclear Medicine
- Bone Densitometry (DEXA)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

For information:

### Diagnostic Imaging

Phone: 507-646-1143

Fax: 507-646-1144

## Clinics, Hospital + Specialty Care

**Farmington Clinic**  
4645 Knutsen Drive  
Tel: 651-460-2300

**Lakeville Clinic  
+ URGENT CARE**  
9974 – 214th Street W  
Tel: 952-469-0500

**Lonsdale Clinic**  
103 15th Avenue SE  
Tel: 507-744-3245

**Northfield Clinic**  
2000 North Avenue  
Tel: 507-646-1494

**Express Care Clinic**  
706 Division Street  
Tel: 507-646-6700

**Rehabilitation Clinics  
Lakeville:**  
9913 214th Street W.  
Tel: 952-985-2020

**Northfield:**  
1381 Jefferson Road  
Tel: 507-646-8800

**Women's Health Center**  
2000 North Avenue  
Tel: 507-646-1478

**Orthopedic Services  
Northfield:**  
1381 Jefferson Road  
Tel: 507-646-8900

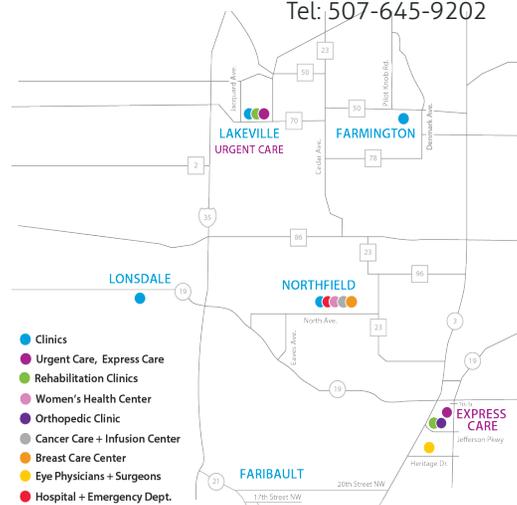
**Faribault:**  
1645 Lyndale Ave N #103  
Tel: 507-334-1601

**Faribault Clinic - ENT**  
1645 Lyndale Ave N.  
Tel: 952-469-0500

**Cancer Care &  
Infusion Center**  
2000 North Avenue  
Tel: 507-646-6979

**Breast Care Center**  
2000 North Avenue  
Tel: 507-646-1143

**Northfield Eye  
Physicians + Surgeons**  
2019 Jefferson Road  
Tel: 507-645-9202



# CT Scanning

What you need to know  
about CT Scanning

# What is a CT Scan?

Computed Axial Tomography (CAT or CT) is a way to look inside your body. It produces cross-sectional images, much like slices of bread. By taking a series of these images, a CT scan creates a multi-dimensional view of your body. This greatly enhances our ability to diagnose your medical condition.

The main feature of the CT scan equipment is a large "ring." As the patient passes through the ring, the X-ray tube rotates around the patient and takes pictures or visual "slices." These views are projected onto a computer screen. Images will be transferred to a digital archive to become part of your permanent record.

## Preparing for your exam

- You may take your prescription medicines on schedule (with as little water as possible)—unless your physician has instructed you differently.
- **Head CT:** Do not eat or drink fluids for 4 hours before your exam.
- **Chest C:** Do not eat or drink fluids for 4 hours before your exam.
- **Abdominal and/or Pelvic CT:** You need to take a preparation, called E-Z Cat Dry, 2 hours before your procedure. Follow the instructions provided with this contrast material. You will need to arrive a half-hour before your procedure is scheduled to begin. At that time, you will be given more contrast material to drink. Do not eat or drink anything—besides the contrast—4 hours prior to your exam.

- **CT of Extremities, CT of Sinus, or CT for Kidney Stone:** No preparation is required.
- Your friend or family member is welcome to stay in the waiting room.
- While sweat suits or jogging clothes are recommended, a gown will be provided, if it is needed. There cannot be any metal, beads, glitter or other items that may interfere with the imaging.

## What to expect

You will be screened before the procedure to find out any surgeries and other health history information in regards to the test. The technologist will position you as comfortably as possible on the scanner table.

Depending on the body part examined, you will enter either head first or feet first. The part being examined must be in the center of the ring. After leaving the room, the technologist will watch you through a glass window and keep in close contact through an intercom system.

As the scan begins, the table will start to move, sliding you a short distance every few seconds. The technologist may ask you to hold your breath to prevent blurring of pictures. It will make a low, soft swishing noise.

An IV contrast dye solution may be used to enhance the resolution of the images. You may need to have laboratory work done to evaluate if you are able to have the IV contrast. This will be explained more before your test.

If you have any questions or concerns about the exam, please feel free to ask the technologist at any time.

## Is it safe?

Yes, the procedure is safe. Millions of people have been examined using the CT scan. There are no significant side effects from having this exam. Even though radiation is used for this exam, your provider has decided the information they will receive from this test will outweigh the low dose of radiation you will receive.

## Results

The radiologist will review the images and send a report to your provider in 2 to 3 business days, but can take as long as a week. Your provider will inform you of the results. You may also view your report online through **MyHealth Info** available three business days after the exam has been read by the radiologist.

## Scheduling appointments or questions

Please call the Diagnostic Imaging Department Scheduler at 507-646-1143 to schedule or change an appointment, or if you have questions.