



CT Spine- Cervical, Thoracic or Lumbar

To schedule: (319) 861-7778

Questions about your procedure: (319) 398-6050

What is a CT Scan?

A Computed Tomography (CT) scan – sometimes called CAT scan – is a non-invasive, painless medical test that helps providers diagnose and treat medical conditions.

CT imaging uses special X-ray equipment to produce multiple images or pictures of the inside of the body. A computer joins them together in cross-sectional views of the area being studied. The images can then be examined and interpreted from the computer.

CT scans of internal organs, bone, soft tissues and blood vessels provide greater clarity than conventional X-ray exams.

In certain cases, your doctor may recommend that you receive a special dye called contrast material. This can be something that you are asked to drink before your CT scan, or something that is given through a vein in your arm. The contrast material will help your doctor get a better picture of certain tissues of the body.

A CT scan usually takes between 15-30 minutes.

Preparation:

Your CT scan will require no preparation, you may eat and drink normally prior to and after your CT exam.

Note: if you require anesthesia for your exam, you will receive a separate set of instructions from the anesthesia department.

PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR APPOINTMENT:

A PHOTO ID TO VERIFY YOUR IDENTITY

A LIST OF CURRENT MEDICATIONS YOU ARE TAKING

Parking:

Mercy Hospital:

Park in the Mercy Medical Center 10th Street Parking Ramp, located at the corner of 10th Street and 8th Avenue SE. Proceed to **Ground (G)** level and follow the signs to “Radiology (X-Ray),” also located on **Ground (G)** level.

Mercy Imaging Center - Hiawatha:

Located at 1195 Boyson Rd. in Hiawatha. This location is particularly convenient for patients coming from the north side of Cedar Rapids, Marion or Hiawatha. Park directly outside the “Imaging” door along N. 12th Ave.

Plumb Heart Center:

Located on the ground floor at 846 9th Ave SE, Cedar Rapids. This is located across from Mercy Medical Center. Parking located outside of the Plumb Heart Center main entrance along 8th St SE.

Procedure Results:

A radiologist will review the images shortly after the exam is completed. A written report will be sent to the provider who ordered your exam. Your provider will discuss the results with you. Results will typically be available for your provider within two business days of the exam. Results will also be sent to your MyChart account.