CT Scan of Abdomen- An abdominal CAT scan can detect signs of inflammation, infection, injury or disease of the liver, spleen, kidneys, bladder, stomach, intestines, pancreas, and adrenal glands. It is also used to look at blood vessels and lymph nodes in the abdomen. A physician may order a CAT scan to find the cause of abdominal pain, diagnose an illness, or evaluate the effects of a traumatic injury.

Your physician may order this test with or without a contrast agent depending on your diagnosis. If contrast material is used, it will be swallowed, injected through an intravenous line (IV) or administered by enema, depending on the type of examination. The contrast is an iodinated contrast so please inform the technologist if you are allergic to iodine or any type of contrast agent. Please inform the technologist if you are pregnant. Many imaging tests are not preformed during pregnancy.

You must be NPO (nothing to eat or drink) after midnight the day of the test. Non-diabetic medications may be taken with a sip of water. If you are diabetic please consult your physician as to any special instructions concerning your diabetes medication prior to the test. If you are scheduled for an afternoon appointment you may eat until 4 hours before your appointment. Please drink 24ozs of water within 24 hours of your scheduled exam. Please bring your current home medications or a list of your medications with you the day of the test. You may be asked to remove some or all of your clothes and to wear a gown during the test. You may also be asked to remove jewelry, removable dental hardware, eye glasses, and any metal objects or clothing that might interfere with the images.

If your exam was ordered with an oral contrast agent you will need to arrive 2 hrs. prior to your test to start drinking the contrast. Please be advised of the following information before receiving any contrast agent. If you have ever had an allergic reaction to any contrast agent, you may require a steroid prep the day before the test. Please consult your physician in regards to the steroid prep. If you are age 40 or older, or a diabetic; you will need labs drawn prior to your contrasted exam. Please consult your physician in regards to these labs. If you are a dialysis patient please consult with your physician prior to receiving any contrast agent.

The test may require you to lay flat, lay on your stomach, or on your side. Multiple images of your anatomy will be taken. You must be still during the exam, because movement causes blurred images. You may be told to hold your breath for short periods of time.

The images will be reviewed by a Radiologist (a doctor that reads x-rays) and a report will be sent to your ordering physician in 48 hours. The scan takes approximately 30 minutes. If you receive oral contrast please include the 2 hr drink time in addition to the 30 minute scan. The technologist will give you discharge instructions after the completion of the test.