

# General x-ray

## What is a general x-ray?

General x-rays are the most common diagnostic imaging test usually performed for assessing injured limbs or examining the chest for possible infection. A picture is taken of the inside of the body by a machine, which emits a small amount of radiation energy. The x-rays cast shadows of soft tissue and bone. The shadows are captured and displayed on a computer screen.

## What preparation is required?

You may be asked to remove your clothing, with the exception of underpants and change into a hospital gown. You will also be asked to remove any jewellery, dentures or hairgrrips if these are in the area of the examination. It would be advisable to leave jewellery etc at home.

## What is involved?

The radiographer will position the body part that is being examined on a special x-ray plate (or upright stand) and line up the x-ray tube to take the picture. Usually there is more than one projection taken, for example, two views for a chest, three views for a joint, and occasionally more pictures will need to be taken, particularly for some specialist orthopaedic views.

## Are there any side effects?

No.

## How long will this take?

An examination should take no more than 10 minutes.

## How do I get my results?

Digital images are immediately available to your doctor and your records will be kept permanently. This occurs through a system called PACS. **If a priority report is requested it will be issued within two hours and faxed or emailed to your doctor, however this can sometimes take up to 24 hours.**

If your referring doctor wants to see you on the day of your examination, please advise the reception staff when you arrive for your appointment, so the appropriate information can be made available for you to take to your doctor.

## How much will this cost?

Please ask reception staff of the cost involved at the time of booking your appointment.

## Important

**It is important to let us know when you make your booking if you are or think you may be pregnant or are breastfeeding.**

It is important to bring with you your referral, previous x-rays and any other tests (only if previous ones were **not** done at Cabrini or I-MED).

## Questions

For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Cabrini Medical Imaging using the relevant number below.