

WRH PET/CT Program Information for Referring Physicians

Windsor Regional Hospital has developed that attached PET/CT requisition. Attached is a copy that can be sent for a PET/CT request. At this time, oncologic PET/CT scans using tracers other than FDG are not available at WRH.

Provincial funding of oncologic PET/CT scans is determined on the basis of strictly approved indications by Cancer Care Ontario. The list of currently approved clinical indications is available at ccohealth.ca/PET. Please ensure that your patient meets **all** of the eligibility criteria listed on the CCO website.

For clinically required scans not covered under this program, application can be made to the “PET Access” program through the (ccohealth.ca/PET) for individual consideration. You will then be required to provide CCO with additional information to justify performing the scan.

If your patient does not qualify under either of these provincial programs, your patient may qualify for scanning under a Clinical Trial. This may require that your patient is scanned at a different provincial PET/CT Centre, depending on the trial.

Requisitions for FDG PET/CT scans are available on the WRH website www.wrh.on.ca and can be downloaded & printed then faxed to: 519-254-4759, and **MUST** be accompanied by the appropriate completed indication – specific requisition obtained from the ccohealth.ca/PET website as well. Information for patients regarding the preparations for PET/CT scanning is available on the WRH website as well.

The FDG tracer is obtained daily from London Ontario specifically for the use of each patient. It is very expensive. It is radioactive and decays rapidly, so it cannot be stored or used for another patient. It will be wasted if your patient does not follow the preparation protocol or does not arrive on time. Please urge your patient to comply with the protocol, and discuss with us in advance if you have concerns about compliance.

Process for Ordering an FDG PET/CT scan at WRH:

- 1) Confirm that the patient meets all of the inclusion criteria for approved CCO Indications at the website: ccohealth.ca/PET.

If not, physicians must visit the (ccohealth.ca/PET) website and apply to the PET Access Program there. In this case, the PET/CT scan cannot be booked until this approval is granted.

- 2) Confirm that the patient is not excluded from PET/CT scanning:
 - a. pregnancy
 - b. inability to cooperate with detailed dietary & activity level & medication preparation for 24 hours prior to scanning
 - c. inability to lie motionless during scanning (30 to 40 minutes)
 - d. inability to lie flat throughout the scanning period
 - e. patient weight greater than 500 lbs/226 kg
 - f. inability to provide informed consent
- 3) Send the completed WRH PET/CT Requisition **AND** the appropriate indication – specific Requisition obtained from the ccohealth.ca/PET website to the WRH Department of Nuclear Medicine by fax to 519-254-4759. Ensure all required information for booking the patient is included, as incomplete requisitions will delay the appointment.
- 4) We will contact your patient prior to the appointment to ensure that they understand and can follow the preparation protocol.
- 5) We will confirm the appointment day and time with your office.

Patient preparation is vital to ensure that the FDG PET/CT scan is successful. We require your assistance with the following:

Diabetes:

The most critical aspect is good glycemic control in diabetic patients. This should be achieved in diabetic patients prior to referring them for an FDG PET/CT scan. Hyperglycemia (blood glucose >11 mmol/l) on the day of scanning will lead to rescheduling of the test. Elevated blood glucose below this level may still interfere significantly with imaging. Ideally, blood glucose should be below 8.3 mmol/l on the scan day.

The diabetic patient cannot receive insulin or other diabetes medication within four hours of the appointment time. We will provide information to stable diabetic patients for managing their diet, activity level, and medications the day prior and the day of imaging.

Claustrophobia:

If your patient is claustrophobic, we will instruct them to obtain a prescription for anxiolytic medication from you prior to their appointment day, and to fill it and bring a dose with them to the appointment. They must arrange transportation home in this case, as they will not be able to drive.

For any questions, please contact the Nuclear Medicine Physicians at 519-254-5577 X52374