



# POSITRON EMISSION TOMOGRAPHY (PET) POST-SCAN DISCHARGE

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In order for the technologists to perform PET scan imaging, you received an infusion of a radioisotope (18-fluoro-deoxyglucose or 18-FDG). As part of this imaging process, radioactive material was injected into you, and after your scan you still contain some of this radioactive material.

The remaining radioactive material will not stay in your body very long. The half-life of 18-FDG is 110 minutes. What this means is that by the next day, the radioactive material in your body will no longer be detectable. However, at the time of discharge there are radiation safety recommendations.

The CT/PET technologist or Radiation Safety Officer at Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center will discuss these recommendations with you if you have any questions.

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## AFTER COMPLETION OF PROCEDURE

1. Although the scan you received involved injection of a radioactive substance, which can lead to radiation exposure of persons in your vicinity, the amount of radiation coming from you following the scan is low.
2. You should avoid exposure to small children or pregnant women for six (6) hours. Any amount of radiation exposure to a child should be avoided as much as possible.
3. You can carry out routine activities without risk to others; however, you should limit contact with pregnant women and children as mentioned above.
4. You are not a danger to travelers on public transportation following a PET scan with proper attention to pregnant women and children; however,

radiation detectors in public areas such as airports can be inadvertently activated by even small amounts of radiation. If you plan to travel within 48 hours after your scan, it may be advisable for you to request a document from the PET Technologist or Radiation Safety Officer at Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center stating that you have undergone a PET/CT scan.

5. It is encouraged that you hydrate well and void frequently to flush the radioactive material out of your system after the scan.

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## **AFTER HOURS**

If you need immediate emergency medical attention, please dial 911 or go to the nearest emergency room. All other medical attention outside of the Center's regular office hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday), will be answered by our telephone answering service who will have a doctor from Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center return your call.

**Hammond:** (985) 542-5000

**Gonzales:** (225) 644-1205

**Baton Rouge:** (225) 767-0847

**Covington:** (985) 875-2234

**Houma:** (985) 876-9045