



Getting your radiology examination results

This leaflet explains the process of getting your results following an examination in the Radiology (X-ray) Department at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. Please note: In most cases, the person doing your examination will not be able to give you your results directly on the day. The images will need to be interpreted later, by other skilled staff, so the Radiology Department cannot discuss results with you in person or over the telephone.

Who looks at my examination images?

Images from your examination will be looked at and reporting on by a consultant radiologist (doctor), sonographer or reporting radiographer (care professionals trained to scan and write a result).

When will my results be ready?

The Radiology Department sends your report directly to the doctor, health professional or service who requested your examination. Results for plain film (x-ray) examinations are usually available to your referring doctor within two weeks, if not sooner. In complex cases, results may take longer as the images may need to be reviewed or reported by a radiologist (doctor) with specialist knowledge.

Results for urgent CT and MRI examinations will be available to your referring doctor within seven working days. Routine CT and MRI examination results are usually available within two to four weeks.

For a more complex investigation, you will receive a post-examination self-care sheet specific to your test. In addition, the information includes a section detailing how you will receive your results, as pathways can vary

Who will give me my results?

In some cases, the clinician who referred you for the examination may have already arranged to see you again to discuss the results, or may have told you how you will get the results, for example, by letter or through your GP.

Your clinician will review your results alongside your medical history to give you a full explanation of what your results mean. If you have not heard anything within the expected timeframe (see above) from the person who referred you, please contact them directly.

If you do not know who will give you the results of your examination, please ask the person who referred you or the person carrying out the examination.

What if my care is under different hospitals?

We can transfer your images electronically to other NHS hospitals and some private hospitals and there is no charge for this service. Your hospital should arrange this for you; however, if you have any queries regarding sharing Radiology images, please ask for a member of the PACS (Picture Archive Communication System) team at the reception of Main X-Ray, Level 1 Centre Block or call 0118 322 7829.

Further help and advice

If there is anything, you do not understand or if you have any further questions or concerns, please speak with your referring doctor or clinical specialist to discuss your referral.

If you would like to give feedback – positive or negative, please complete a survey regarding the department you visited at www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/surveys or contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Team (PALS) to get a paper copy of the questionnaire sent to you.

You can also post feedback into any of the suggestion boxes around the hospital.

Contacting us

Radiology Department Tel 0118 322 7991

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

RAD_0113

Mathew Graham, RBFT Radiation Safety Lead, May 2024

Next review due: May 2026