

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Skeletal survey in children



Outstanding Care,  
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**When will I receive the results?**

We aim to make these available either the same day or the next working day.

**Any questions?**

If you think of any questions, write them down here to remind you when you speak to the doctor or radiographer.

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**Further sources of information**

NHS Choices: [www.nhs.uk/conditions](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions)  
Our website: [www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk](http://www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk)

**Patient Experience Team (PET)**

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service.

**King’s Mill Hospital:** 01623 672222

**Newark Hospital:** 01636 685692

**Email:** [sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net](mailto:sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net)

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email [sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net](mailto:sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net).

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you. External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them. If you require a full list of references (if relevant) for this leaflet, please email [sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net](mailto:sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net) or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

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**This leaflet aims to provide patients, parents and carers general information about an examination called a skeletal survey. It will hopefully answer any questions and explain the risks and benefits of this study.**

### **What is a skeletal survey?**

A skeletal survey is an examination made up of multiple x-rays and CT images of each area of your child's body. This includes the skull, chest, spine, pelvis, arms, legs, hands and feet.

### **How to prepare for a skeletal survey**

Your child will not need any special preparation. It will help if your child has clothing that may be easily removed.

Although x-rays and CT scans are not painful, your child may become distressed when they are being held in positions for short lengths of time. It may be useful to bring a feed, dummy, toy or anything that you think may help to comfort your child during this time.

The majority of patients will be given sedation to help them settle - this will be discussed on the ward prior to the examination. If your child is currently receiving pain relief, it also helps to have this before the examination.

### **Where will the skeletal survey take place?**

The survey will take place in the outpatient x-ray department in the King's Treatment Centre (opposite Clinic 1). We have a specific child friendly room which is used for all skeletal surveys.

### **Who will do the survey?**

Two senior radiographers will carry out the survey.

### **What happens during the survey?**

You will receive an appointment time on the ward. You and your child will be escorted to x-ray where the radiographers will explain what will happen and guide you on how to hold your child for the x-rays.

The surveys can take anywhere between 45-60 minutes to complete.

### **Will I be allowed to stay with my child?**

Any relative or guardian accompanying the child will be invited into the room during the examination.

### **What happens after the x-rays?**

Once the radiographers have all the images they need, you and your child will be escorted to the CT department, which is in the main radiology department.

### **CT head scan**

A CT scan is quick and painless. Your child will be settled on the scanner and encouraged to remain still. You will be able to stay with your child during the scan if you wish.



### **What happens after the skeletal survey is complete?**

After the survey, you and your child will be able to go back to the ward.

The results will be sent to the doctor and other members of staff involved in your child's care.

### **Will there be a follow up appointment?**

An appointment for 12-14 days time will be made by the radiographers while you are in the x-ray department.

This appointment will consist of repeat x-rays of previously x-rayed areas. This is a much quicker process.

### **Are there any risks involved with a skeletal survey?**

As with any form of radiation, x-rays and CT scans do carry a small health risk.

When doctors request a skeletal survey to be carried out, they believe the benefits of this examination are greater than any small risk that the examination may carry.

We are all exposed to background radiation in our everyday lives. The level of exposure to radiation is strictly controlled and kept to a minimum at all times.

The amount of radiation received for a skeletal survey is roughly the same amount of exposure as approximately 4 to 8 months of background radiation.

The amount of radiation for the CT scan is approximately 6 months, but this is a much more detailed examination, therefore any risk is outweighed by the benefits.

