Welcome to Barnes-Jewish West County Hospital Radiology. Your physician has scheduled you for a Nuclear Medicine exam in Radiology. Nuclear medicine exams are diagnostic exams that produce images of the body by using a special camera that detects energy emitting from the radioactive substance, called a radiotracer.

SCHEDULING
Nuclear medicine appointments are scheduled M-F from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. These exams are by appointment only and are typically scheduled by your referring physician. To reschedule an exam, please call Radiology Scheduling at 314-996-8080, M-F from 7:00 am to 5:30 pm.

YOUR ARRIVAL
• Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your appointment to allow for registration time.
• Please bring a photo ID (driver’s license or state ID), and insurance card(s) with you to your appointment. Forms can be found at www.barnesjewishwestcounty.org/radiology.

PRIOR TO YOUR EXAM
• Take your medication as you normally do, unless your physician has told you otherwise.
• Depending on the type of exam, you will be given instructions from your referring physician on whether you can eat or drink anything for several hours before your exam.
• A technologist will explain the exam and answer any questions.
• Be prepared to discuss your completed medication record, allergies, past medical history, and any previous surgeries.
• Depending on the exam, you will receive a radiotracer either as a liquid you drink, as a gas you inhale, or by IV. The amount of radiation exposure poses no risk to you or to those around you. Most of the tracer will be eliminated from the body within 4 days.

• Some exams have delays to allow the tracer to take effect. The delay can be 2 hours to several days depending on the exam.

LENGTH OF EXAM
Most nuclear medicine exams last 45 minutes to 2 hours, depending on the exam. For bone scans or cardiac exams, please allow 3 hours.

AFTER YOUR EXAM
• All radiology exams are read by a physician known as a Radiologist. The radiologists at Barnes-Jewish West County Hospital are all specialized experts in their field.
• The radiologist will report your results to your referring physician within 24 hours. Your referring physician’s office will discuss any results with you.

QUESTIONS
Visit our website at www.barnesjewishwestcounty.org/radiology or call the Radiology Department at 314-996-8496.