Your general practitioner (GP) determines that you need a diagnostic imaging exam to diagnose your condition. Some exams can be ordered by your GP. For others, you will need to see a specialist who will order your exam.

As soon as the decision to order a diagnostic imaging exam has been made, discuss with your doctor when/how the results will be conveyed to you. You should confirm with your doctor if he/she will contact you with the results, or if you need to book a follow-up appointment.

Your doctor or the specialist will determine the urgency of your exam and submit a referral, however the ultimate responsibility for prioritization rests with the attending radiologist after consultation with the referring physician.

You will be contacted in advance of your appointment by the radiology department, and provided with preparation instructions, if necessary. Depending on the urgency of your exam, there may be a delay before you are contacted.

Immediately following your exam, the technologist will review your exam to ensure image quality. If more images are needed, they will usually be taken right away. At this time, you are free to go home.

Most exams take 30 to 45 minutes, but some can take up to 2 hours. Follow the instructions given to you during your exam by the technologist.

When you report to the radiology department, you will be provided with further instructions, and your procedure will be explained to you.

EXAM DAY
Be sure to follow the exam preparation instructions, if required, given to you by the radiology department. Arrive 30 minutes early at the admitting department.

After your exam, the images will be read and interpreted by the radiologist, who will make a report. This report will be sent to either your general practitioner or the specialist who referred you for the exam.

Once your doctor has received and reviewed the results of your exam, he/she will contact you to discuss the results of your exam, unless you and your doctor made other specific arrangements. If 4 weeks have passed by and you still have not heard from your doctor, contact your doctor’s office to inquire on the status of your examination results.