



## How to prepare for your CT scan

Be sure to inform your doctor if you are, or suspect you may be pregnant before proceeding with the CT scan. CT scans are not usually performed during pregnancy.

***Additionally, if you've ever had contrast agents before and experienced discomfort or an allergic reaction, inform the technologist and the doctor.***

**The scanner has a weight limit of 450 lbs (Derry) and 500 lbs (Bedford)**

### Preparing for Your CT Scan

1. There is no preparation required for: spines, head without contrast, sinus, and extremity scans
2. Preparation of drinking an oral prep agent prior to your exam may be required for soft tissue neck and chest scans as well as abdomen & pelvis scans. If receiving, you will get instructions either at the time of scheduling or when picking up the oral preparation.
3. You may receive IV contrast. The IV contrast adds detail to all major organs and blood vessels. The technologist will explain the contrast procedure in detail and a detailed medical history will be taken from you. **All exams needing an IV require you to have nothing to eat for 3 hours before your scan. Clear liquids are OK.**
  - If contrast is required please bring a current list of medications with you
  - You may feel some slight discomfort while the IV is initially set up. While the IV is first being administered, you may have a cool sensation in your arm, a metallic taste in your mouth and/or a warm flushing sensation. All sensations are normal and go away within a few minutes.
  - Depending on what your symptoms are, the technologist may be required to administer rectal contrast. A small flexible tube will be inserted into your rectum and Readicat will fill your lower colon. This enables complete visualization of your colon. If rectal contrast is required, the technologist will explain the process in detail.