

Barlborough NHS Treatment Centre

Guide to x-rays

What is an x-ray?

X-rays are a type of invisible electromagnetic radiation – you don't feel them pass through your body.

Your x-ray will be undertaken by a Diagnostics Radiographer who is a registered clinician with the Health Care Professionals Council (HCPC).

What are the risks?

We are exposed to radiation in the environment every day. Radiation is involved during an x-ray but the dose you receive is very small. You will be exposed to around a fifth of the radiation you would receive from the environment over a year.

Radiographers ensure that the radiation dose is always kept to a minimum. Please inform our radiographer if you have had an x-ray within the last 6 months. You should always tell your radiographer if there is any possibility you are pregnant – x-rays are a greater risk to unborn children because the foetus is still developing.

What happens during an x-ray?

You may be asked to change or remove clothing and jewellery in the x-ray room; a chaperone can be requested.

Once verbal consent is given the radiographer will ask you to sit, stand or lie depending on which body part is being examined.

The radiographer will need to take two or more x-rays of the same area but from different angles to ensure maximum information is obtained for the consultant.

The results will be discussed with the consultant as the radiographer cannot discuss them with you.

Please make sure you are satisfied that you have received enough information about your examination. Please ask a member of the team should you require more help.

For more information, visit www.barlboroughtreatmentcentre.nhs.uk or call us on 0333 200 5276