C T EDUCATION

CT scan, or CAT scan, is a medical test that helps doctors find and treat many different kinds of medical problems. The body part that is being looked at is given a safe dose of energy in order to make pictures of the inside of the body. The energy used for CT scanning is a form of x-rays. X-rays have been used for imaging for more than 100 years and are the most common and oldest kind of medical imaging. CT scanners use x-ray to show detailed, thin slices of the body. Some common uses for CT pictures are:

Looking at internal structures (such as lungs, pelvis, abdominal organs and intestines) for cancer, infection or fluid collections

Looking at the heart to check for disease Looking at brain tissue for tumor, bleed or stroke Looking for broken bones or broken bones that are healing

Checking for objects in the body that do not belong Looking for damage or injury from accidents

Looking at blood vessels for blockage, hardening, blood clot or injury

Helping doctors during other tests

Planning for treatments for tumors

Getting ready for surgery

At UNM Hospitals, only trained, certified & licensed technologists are allowed to perform CT scans. Students work with licensed technologists.

CT scan of the chest

GETTING READY FOR YOUR TEST

For your CT scan, you may be asked not to eat or drink anything for a few hours before your exam. You may be