

# The Suffolk Community Council



## **A Guide to Hospital Diagnostic Tests For People with Disabilities**

*May, 2010*

This *Guide to Hospital Diagnostic Tests* was produced by the Suffolk Community Council's Network of Women with Disabilities, a group of volunteers committed to improving the lives of people with disabilities. Soon after its founding in 2006, members of the Network identified access to health care as its most important issue. This guide addresses one aspect of this issue – the need to find hospital-based diagnostic services for people who require accommodation.

Members of the Network and staff visited every hospital in Suffolk County during the summer and fall of 2009 to assess the capacity of the hospitals to perform tests for people with various disabilities.

Users of this Guide should be aware that it is based on a single set of observations made at a particular time, and that the ability of a hospital to perform a test for an individual patient in particular circumstances may vary. People requiring accommodations at a hospital should discuss their needs with hospital representatives at the time the test is scheduled to make sure that the properly trained staff and necessary equipment are available.

*The Suffolk Community Council has been the voice of human services in Suffolk County for over 77 years. We are a non-profit organization dedicated to the improvement of the quality of life for all residents of Suffolk County. Please call us at (631) 434-9277, or visit our web site at [www.suffolkcommunitycouncil.org](http://www.suffolkcommunitycouncil.org)*

*The Suffolk Community Council is a Member Agency of the United Way of Long Island.*

## We extend our thanks to the following:

The board and staff of the Suffolk Community Council

The staff of the hospitals who welcomed us to their facilities

The Grainger Foundation

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## How to Use This Guide

This guide rates the capacity of the twelve hospitals in Suffolk County to provide diagnostic tests to people with various disabilities. Ratings were assigned for nine tests: X-ray, mammography, bone density scan, MRI, CAT scan, sonography, Doppler and EKG. The following ten disabilities were considered: inability to stand, to lie flat, remain still, raise an arm, bend a limb, or transfer from a wheelchair, visual impairment, hearing loss, accommodations for a service animal, and need for an interpreter.

Each hospital was given a score between 0 and 5 for its capacity to provide each test to people with each type of disability. If the hospital does not provide these specific tests to anyone, no score was given. A score of 0 means that the hospital provides the test but has no capacity to provide it to someone with that particular disability. The other scores are as follows: 1 = poor, 2 = fair, 3 = good, 4 = very good, and 5 = excellent.

The scores represent a consensus among the volunteers and staff who visited the hospitals. They are based on direct observations of the equipment and facilities, and on information provided by the staff of the hospitals. We are aware that some elements of the scoring are subjective and that some pertinent information may not have been communicated to the raters. We were impressed by how eager hospital staff was to learn from our raters and how committed they were to improving their capacity to accommodate people with disabilities.

Section 1 of this Guide is organized by type of test. Section 2 is organized by type of disability and Section 3 rates the hospitals on additional factors related to accessibility.

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<b>21</b>	Disability specific accommodations for reminders and follow-ups
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<b>23</b>	Medical history and billing information available in alternative formats
<b>23</b>	Phone and TVs have raised numbers for controls

*Brookhaven*  
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## X-Ray

Person can not stand	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Person can not lie flat	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	5
Person can not remain still	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	4	3	4	4
Person can not raise arm	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	4
Visual impairment	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Deaf-hard of hearing	4	0	4	3	3	5	4	5	4	3	3	5
Person cannot bend limb (fused )	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Person cannot transfer from wheelchair	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Accommodations for a service animal	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Person requires an interpreter	4	0	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4
Patient can remain in wheelchair	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

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## Mammogram

Person can not stand	4	4	4	4	4		4	4	4	4	5	5
Person can not lie flat		5						4	4		5	
Person can not remain still	4	4	4	3	4		4	5	4	4	5	4
Person can not raise arm	4	4	4	3	4		4	4	4	4	4	4
Visual impairment	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5
Deaf-hard of hearing	4	0	4	4	4		4	5	4	4	4	4
Person cannot bend limb (fused )	0	0	5	4	5		5	4	5	5	5	5
Person cannot transfer from wheelchair	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5
Accommodations for a service animal	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5
Person requires an interpreter	4	0	4	4	4		4	5	4	4	4	4

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## Bone Density

Person can not stand	1	4		5	5	5		5		5	5	5
Person can not lie flat	0	0	4	1	0	5		5		1	5	5
Person can not remain still	3	3	3	1	0	5		4		1	5	4
Person can not raise arm	4	4	4	4	5	5		4		5	5	5
Visual impairment	5	5	5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5
Deaf-hard of hearing	5	0	5	4	4	5		5		4	4	4
Person cannot bend limb (fused )	4	4	4	5	5	5		5		5	5	5
Person cannot transfer from wheelchair	1	4	3	3	0	5		5		0	5	4
Accommodations for a service animal	5	5	5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5
Person requires an interpreter	5	0	5	4	4	5		5		4	4	4



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## PET Scan

Person can not stand			4									4
Person can not lie flat			3									5
Person can not remain still			3									3
Person can not raise arm			5									4
Visual impairment			5									5
Deaf-hard of hearing			5									4
Person cannot bend limb (fused )			4									4
Person cannot transfer from wheelchair			5									4
Accommodations for a service animal			5									5
Person requires an interpreter			5									4

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**MRI**

Person can not stand	4	4	4	4	5	5	4	5	4	5	5	5
Person can not lie flat	2	4	4	3	0	5	4	3	4	3	3	3
Person can not remain still	4	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	3
Person can not raise arm	5	5	5	3	4	4	5	4	5	4	4	4
Visual impairment	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	4
Deaf-hard of hearing	4	0	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	4	4	4
Person cannot bend limb (fused )	3	3	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	3	4	4
Person cannot transfer from wheelchair	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	5	4
Accommodations for a service animal	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Person requires an interpreter	5	0	5	4	4	5	4	5	5	4	5	4

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## CAT Scan

Person can not stand		4	4	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5
Person can not lie flat	4	4	4	4	0	4	5	4	4	4	4	4
Person can not remain still	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	4
Person can not raise arm	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	3
Visual impairment	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	5
Deaf-hard of hearing	5	2	5	4	0	5	4	5	5	4	4	4
Person cannot bend limb (fused )	5	5	5	4	4	5	5	4	5	5	5	5
Person cannot transfer from wheelchair	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4
Accommodations for a service animal	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Person requires an interpreter	5	0	5	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	4	4

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## Sonogram

Person can not stand	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Person can not lie flat	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	5
Person can not remain still	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4
Person can not raise arm	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	5
Visual impairment	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Deaf-hard of hearing	5	0	5	4	4	5	4	5	5	4	4	4
Person cannot bend limb (fused )	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	5	5
Person cannot transfer from wheelchair	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	5
Accommodations for a service animal	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Person requires an interpreter	5	0	5	4	4	5	4	5	5	4	4	4

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## Doppler

Person can not stand	3	3	3	5	5	5	5	5	3	5	5	5
Person can not lie flat	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	1	5	5
Person can not remain still	4	4	4	0	4	4	4	5	4	1	4	4
Person can not raise arm	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	1	5	5
Visual impairment	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5
Deaf-hard of hearing	5	0	5	4	4	5	4	5	5	1	4	4
Person cannot bend limb (fused )	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5
Person cannot transfer from wheelchair	5	5	5	2	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Accommodations for a service animal	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Person requires an interpreter	5	0	5	4	4	5	4	5	5	4	4	4

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**EKG**

Person can not stand	5	5	5	5	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Person can not lie flat	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5
Person can not remain still	4	4	4	3	3	5	4	3	4	3	3	3
Person can not raise arm	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Visual impairment	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Deaf-hard of hearing	5	0	5	4	4	5	4	5	5	4	4	4
Person cannot bend limb (fused )	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Person cannot transfer from wheelchair	4	4	4	0	5	5	3	5	4	3	5	4
Accommodations for a service animal	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Person requires an interpreter	5	0	5	4	4	5	4	5	5	4	4	4

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**Person can not stand**

X-ray	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Mammogram	4	4	4	4	4		4	4	4	4	5	5	5
Bone Density	1	4		5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
PET Scan			4										4
MRI	4	4	4	4	5	5	4	5	4	5	5	5	5
CAT Scan		4	4	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	5
Sonogram	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Doppler	3	3	3	5	5	5	5	5	3	5	5	5	5
EKG	5	5	5	5	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

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**Person can not lie flat**

X-ray	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	5
Mammogram		5						4	4		5	
Bone Density	0	0	4	1	0	5		5		1	5	5
PET Scan			3									5
MRI	2	4	4	3	0	5	4	3	4	3	3	3
CAT Scan	4	4	4	4	0	4	5	4	4	4	4	4
Sonogram	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	5
Doppler	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	1	5	5
EKG	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5



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**Person can not remain still**

X-ray	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	3	4	3	4	4
Mammogram	4	4	4	3	4		4	5	4	4	5	4
Bone Density	3	3	3	1	0	5		4		1	5	4
PET Scan			3									3
MRI	4	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	3
CAT Scan	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	4
Sonogram	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4
Doppler	4	4	4	0	4	4	4	5	4	1	4	4
EKG	4	4	4	3	3	5	4	3	4	3	3	3

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**Person can not raise arm**

X-ray	3	3	4	3	3	4	4	3	4	4	4	4
Mammogram	4	4	4	3	4		4	4	4	4	4	4
Bone Density	4	4	4	4	5	5		4		5	5	5
PET Scan			5									4
MRI	5	5	5	3	4	4	5	4	5	4	4	4
CAT Scan	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	3
Sonogram	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	5
Doppler	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	1	5	5
EKG	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

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**Visual impairment**

X-ray	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Mammogram	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Bone Density	5	5	5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
PET Scan			5										5
MRI	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	4	4
CAT Scan	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	5	5
Sonogram	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Doppler	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	5
EKG	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5



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**Deaf/Hard of Hearing**

X-ray	4	0	4	3	3	5	4	5	4	3	3	5
Mammogram	4	0	4	4	4		4	5	4	4	4	4
Bone Density	5	0	5	4	4	5		5		4	4	4
PET Scan			5									4
MRI	4	0	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	4	4	4
CAT Scan	5	2	5	4	0	5	4	5	5	4	4	4
Sonogram	5	0	5	4	4	5	4	5	5	4	4	4
Doppler	5	0	5	4	4	5	4	5	5	1	4	4
EKG	5	0	5	4	4	5	4	5	5	4	4	4

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**Person cannot bend limb (fused )**

X-ray	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Mammogram	0	0	5	4	5		5	4	5	5	5	5	5
Bone Density	4	4	4	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
PET Scan			4										4
MRI	3	3	3	4	3	4	3	4	3	3	4	4	4
CAT Scan	5	5	5	4	4	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5
Sonogram	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	5	5	5
Doppler	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5
EKG	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

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### Person cannot transfer from wheelchair

X-ray	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Mammogram	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Bone Density	1	4	3	3	0	5		5		0	5	4	
PET Scan			5										4
MRI	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	5	4	4
CAT Scan	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4
Sonogram	4	4	4	5	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	5	5
Doppler	5	5	5	2	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
EKG	4	4	4	0	5	5	3	5	4	3	5	4	4

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**Accommodations for a service animal**

X-ray	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Mammogram	5	5	5	5	5		5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Bone Density	5	5	5	5	5	5		5		5	5	5	5
PET Scan			5										5
MRI	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
CAT Scan	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Sonogram	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Doppler	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
EKG	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5

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### Person requires an interpreter

X-ray	4	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4
Mammogram	4	0	4	4	4		4	5	4	4	4	4	4
Bone Density	5	0	5	4	4	5		5		4	4	4	4
PET Scan			5										4
MRI	5	0	5	4	4	5	4	5	5	4	5	4	4
CAT Scan	5	0	5	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	4	4	4
Sonogram	5	0	5	4	4	5	4	5	5	4	4	4	4
Doppler	5	0	5	4	4	5	4	5	5	4	4	4	4
EKG	5	0	5	4	4	5	4	5	5	4	4	4	4



## Additional Services

	Brookhaven	Eastern LI	Good Samaritan	Huntington	Mather Memorial	Northport VA	Peconic	Southampton	Southside	St. Catherine's	St. Charles	Stony Brook
Hydraulic OB-GYN exam table available	4	4		3			0	5	5		5	3
Affiliation with dental clinic that provides accessible services						5	0				5	5
Emergency room hydraulic exam table lowers to 18"	5	5	3	3	3	5	0	5	5	3	5	5
Elevators equipped with Braille and/or voice announcements	3	0	3	4	3	5	0	4	3	3	4	4
Elevators stay open long enough for a person using a wheelchair/Floor numbers reachable from a chair	4	0	4	4	4	5	5	4	2	4	4	4
Large font signs throughout the facility	4	4	4	5	2	5	5	3	4	2	5	5
Signs in high contrast	2	2	2	5	2	5	5	2	2	2	5	5

## Additional Services

	Brookhaven	Eastern LI	Good Samaritan	Huntington	Mather Memorial	Northport VA	Peconic	Southampton	Southside	St. Catherine's	St. Charles	Stony Brook
Signs at a readable level for people using a wheel chair	0	0	0	5	5	5	5	5	3	5	5	5
Wheelchairs available in the parking lot for patients or visitors	4	4	4	5	4	5	5	5	4	2	4	5
Magnification devices available	5	5		0	0	5	0	5		4	4	3
Private area for a person with a visual impairment to complete information forms/Staff assistance available	4	4	4	5	4	5	5	5	4	4	5	5
Disability specific accommodations for reminders and follow-up appointments	3	3	3	0	3	5	5		3	3	5	0
Hospital provides easy access to a person's mobility aids during stay	4	4	2	2	0	5	5	4	2	2	5	2

## Additional Services

	Brookhaven	Eastern LI	Good Samaritan	Huntington	Mather Memorial	Northport VA	Peconic	Southampton	Southside	St. Catherine's	St. Charles	Stony Brook
Hospital staff discusses mobility aids with patient prior to admission	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Recourse available if a person's equipment becomes damaged during hospital stay	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Availability of staff to communicate with hearing impaired individuals/Sign language interpreter available/Assistive Listening System in place/TTY in place	4	0	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4
Staff familiar with interacting on a 711 relay service call/Patients made aware of this service	5	5	5	5	5	0	5	5	5	5	5	5
Designated person available to individually assist a person with a disability while in the hospital	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	4	4	4	4	4

## Additional Services

	Brookhaven	Eastern LI	Good Samaritan	Huntington	Mather Memorial	Northport VA	Peconic	Southampton	Southside	St. Catherine's	St. Charles	Stony Brook
Patient advocate or ombudsman on staff	5	5	3	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Extra time allotted for people with disabilities	0	0	0			5	5		5		5	
Medical history and billing information available in alternative formats	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3		3	4	3
Phones and TVs have raised numbers for controls	5	5		5	0	5		0		5	5	5

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