

Appointment Date: _____ **Time:** _____

LOCATION: Aultman Main Hospital: 2600 6th St. SW, Canton

DEPARTMENT: Aultman Heart and Vascular Center (noninvasive heart lab)

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEDURE

Your doctor has requested that you have a transesophageal echocardiogram (TEE). The procedure is done to help evaluate the heart, often when a regular echo doesn't show certain areas of the heart well. It is performed by passing a small round probe into your esophagus (food pipe). This lets the doctor see clear pictures of your heart.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- You will be taken to an exam room, given a gown to change into and asked to sign a consent form giving the doctor permission to perform the procedure. Your medical history will be reviewed.
- Your family member/driver **MUST** wait in the waiting room until the procedure is complete and you have recovered.
- You will have an intravenous line (IV) started so you may be given medication to help relax/sedate you.
- The back of your throat may be sprayed with a numbing medication or you may be given a numbing medication to swallow. This will help to make passing the scope easier and more comfortable.
- The cardiologist will go over the results of the procedure with you prior to leaving the hospital.
- You may have a slight sore throat after the procedure.

INSTRUCTIONS

Follow any specific instructions given to you by your doctor/cardiologist before the test

- Please have a friend or family member bring you to the hospital on the day of your procedure. **You will not be allowed to drive for the rest of the day, and the procedure will not be performed if you do not have a driver at the hospital with you.**
- Please bring your driver's license or other form of photo ID.
- Do not eat or drink anything after midnight on the day before your exam.
- You may take medications with a sip of water.

- Arrive about 30 minutes before your scheduled test, so you may be prepared for the test.
- BRING A LIST OF YOUR MEDICATIONS.** Bring in your medications for the day. You will be able to take your medications after the stress test.
- If you are an insulin dependent diabetic, please check with your doctor to see if you should adjust the dose of your insulin.

LENGTH OF THE EXAM: although the test takes less than an hour, plan on spending *about 3 hours* at the hospital because of preparation and recovery time.

AFTER THE EXAM: Once you are fully awake, the staff will take you to the car. Avoid hot drinks until the throat numbness is gone. The nurse will review discharge instructions with you. You will be discharged in the **care of a responsible adult**. Take it easy for the rest of the day and **do not drive**.

QUESTIONS PRIOR TO TESTING: Please call 330-363-4229 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. and ask to speak to the stress lab nurse.

SCHEDULING AND REGISTRATION: Pre-registration is required for an accurate medical record and proper billing. You may be contacted by a patient access representative if we need any information. If you have questions or need to reschedule your exam, please call the cardiologist office who scheduled your test. All exams require a written order from your physician.

HOSPITAL PARKING

Free visitor parking is available in Lot 3 across from the Bedford building; enter from Sixth Street. Valet parking is available at the Seventh Street and Bedford building entrances for a fee - or free if you are a handicapped motorist. Deck parking is available on 7th street for a fee, based on your length of stay.

DIRECTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT

Heart and Vascular Center (Lot 3 parking is the closest parking) is located on the first floor of the Bedford Building. After entering the Bedford lobby, turn to your right and enter the Heart and Vascular Center.