

Appointment Date: _____

WHAT TIME SHOULD I ARRIVE?

The Heart Lab Staff will call you between 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. the day prior to your test with your arrival time. The approximate time of your procedure is not known until the day before your test. If you will not be available at that time to receive the call, or if you don't get a call by 4 p.m., please call to confirm your arrival time.

- Heart Cath Lab: 330-363-4230
- Ambulatory Cardiac Unit: 330-363-5016 (if no answer in Heart Lab)

Please use the Bedford (6th Street) entrance on arrival to the hospital.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Please review the information provided in your procedure information packet prior to coming to the hospital.
- If you were given an order for lab work, please have it drawn several days before your procedure. Take your order with you. You do not need an appointment for your pre-admission testing.
- You must have someone to drive you home and stay with you overnight after your procedure unless you are admitted to the hospital.
- Do not eat or drink anything except for sips of water with your medication(s) after midnight the night before your procedure.
- Please bring all your medications to the hospital the day of your procedure. They will be sent home with you. **You will not be permitted** to take medications brought in from home while you are in the hospital.
- If you are allergic to shellfish, iodine or X-ray dye, please tell the staff.
- Other instructions _____

Medication Instructions: Your doctor's office will give you instructions below:

- Take all your medications the night before and morning of your procedure with a sip of water.
- Take all your medications **except for** the following the night before and morning of your procedure: _____
- Other medication instructions: _____

LOCATION: Ambulatory Cardiac Unit (located in the Aultman Heart and Vascular Center)

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEDURE: An electrophysiology (EP) study looks at the electrical system of the heart to find out where your abnormal heart rhythm (arrhythmia) is coming from. By doing this, your doctor will be able to treat your heart rhythm disturbance with the medications or procedures that will work best.

If an ablation is determined to be the best treatment of your arrhythmia, your doctor will do the procedure after performing the EP study. An ablation is done to restore and keep your heart in a normal rhythm. It is done by making small scars in the area of the heart causing the arrhythmia. This may be done using radio waves (radiofrequency ablation) or extreme cold (cryoablation).

WHAT TO EXPECT: You will be given medicine to help you relax. You will feel the “bee sting” of medicine injected to numb the skin in the neck and groin area, where the two sheaths will be inserted. When the areas are numb, the doctor will start your procedure. During the procedure, your heart will be stimulated to beat faster, and you may feel your heart beating faster, stronger or skipping beats.

During the procedure:

- Using a needle, a small, straw-type tube called a sheath will be inserted into the blood vessels in the groin and neck.
- Once the sheaths are in place, several specialized EP catheters will be advanced through the sheaths and into your heart.
- Your doctor will send electrical pulses through the catheter to make your heart beat at different speeds.
- Electrical signals from your heart are recorded and mapped. This will help to locate where your heart arrhythmia is coming from.
- If the test indicates that an ablation will best treat your arrhythmia, your doctor will perform the ablation by using a catheter that is inserted through the same sheath.
- The catheter will destroy a very small area or areas of the heart that cause the abnormal rhythm. The area destroyed is about 1/5 of an inch in size.
- You may be awake or asleep for parts of the procedure.

WHAT TO BRING TO THE HOSPITAL:

- This packet of information
- A copy of your living will or durable power of attorney for health care (advanced directives) if you have one
- Any toiletry items you would like

- Bring all your current medications. **You will not be permitted** to take your home medications while in the hospital, but the nurses need the names(s) and dosage(s) of each medication.
- Please **do not bring valuables** to the hospital such as purse, wallet, jewelry, money, credit cards, etc. Bring only your ID and insurance cards.

LENGTH OF THE PROCEDURE: The procedure usually takes several hours. It is not unusual for the entire procedure to take approximately four to six hours. You should plan on spending the entire day at the hospital.

AFTER THE EXAM: You may eat and drink after the test.

QUESTIONS PRIOR TO TESTING: Please call 330-363-4230 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

You should expect receive the results of your exam at your next health care provider appointment (if scheduled) or within 10 days of your exam. Please call your health care provider if you do not receive your results.

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 any information is needed. If you have questions or need to schedule or reschedule your exam, please call 330-363-6288 or 1-800-837-0440 Monday - Friday between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. 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 Seventh 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 and then proceed directly through the door into the Ambulatory Cardiac Unit. Please sign in on the kiosk (iPad) at the desk and have a seat on the left side of the waiting room until you are called.