

**Appointment Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHAT TIME SHOULD I ARRIVE?**

The Heart Lab staff will call you between 2 – 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 (6<sup>th</sup> Street) entrance on arrival to the hospital.

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Please review the written information given to you prior to coming to the hospital.
- You will be scheduled for a pretest appointment for your pre-admission testing.
- Do not eat or drink anything except for sips of water with your medication(s) after 12 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 office or nurse coordinator will give you instructions about what medications to take (or not take) before your procedure.

**LOCATION:** Ambulatory Cardiac Unit, located in Aultman Heart and Vascular Center.

**SUMMARY OF THE PROCEDURE:** The LAA closure device is a permanent heart implant for people with a heart rhythm problem called atrial fibrillation. It reduces the risk of stroke and allows most people to eventually stop taking their blood thinners.

The implant fits into an area of the heart where blood may pool in people with atrial fibrillation. This area is called the left atrial appendage, or LAA. There, blood cells can stick together and cause a clot, which could escape and travel to the brain causing a stroke. The LAA closure device closes off this area, reducing stroke risk.

## **WHAT TO EXPECT:**

You will be asleep for this procedure. Your doctor will make a small puncture in your upper leg and insert a narrow tube called a catheter into a vein in your leg. Your doctor will then guide the closure device into the left atrial appendage (LAA) of your heart.

## **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 about an hour and a half. There is also preparation and recovery time, so you may be in the heart lab for several hours before being sent to your room.

**AFTER THE PROCEDURE:** You will spend the night in the hospital. You will slowly resume your diet and activity as tolerated after the procedure.

**QUESTIONS PRIOR TO THE PROCEDURE:** Please call the Specialized Heart and Valve Center at 330-363-0789 with any questions.

**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 any questions, please call 330-363-6288 or 1-800-837-0440 Monday – Friday between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.

**DIRECTIONS:** Report to the Bedford building, which is adjacent to the main hospital at 6<sup>th</sup> and Bedford. The Ambulatory Cardiac Unit is in the **Heart and Vascular Center**. 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.

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