

Appointment Date: _____

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

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 (Sixth 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 labwork, 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 for six (6) hours or drink anything except for sips of water with your medication(s) for two (2) hours before check-in for 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 have a known allergy or have had a previous reaction to X-ray dye, please tell the staff.
- Other instructions _____

Medication Instructions: Your doctor 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 _____.

SUMMARY OF THE TEST: A heart cath is an X-ray to view the arteries, chambers and valves of the heart. A soft, narrow plastic catheter (tube) is inserted through the arm or groin and guided through a blood vessel to the heart. A special X-ray dye, called contrast, is injected through the catheter, which allows the cardiologist (heart doctor) see the heart structures.

If there is a significant blockage in one or more of the heart arteries, your cardiologist may perform an **ANGIOPLASTY**. An angioplasty uses a small balloon, which is inflated to open up the blocked area and place a **STENT** (wire mesh tube) to keep the artery open.

WHAT TO EXPECT: You may be given medicine to help you relax. You will feel the “bee sting” of medicine injected in the skin to numb the wrist or leg. This may be the most uncomfortable part of the procedure. When the area is numb, the doctor will start your procedure.

During the procedure, you may feel a warm flush during some of the times the contrast is injected into your heart. You will be awake and may be asked questions during the procedure. If the procedure is done through your leg, strong pressure may be applied for 30 minutes or more to make sure the bleeding has stopped. This may be uncomfortable. Let the nurse know if it is painful.

WHAT TO BRING TO THE HOSPITAL:

- This packet of information.
- A copy of your living will or durable power of attorney for health care (advance 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 EXAM: The test usually takes 45 – 60 minutes. However, plan to be at the hospital for the **full day** for the preparation and recovery from the procedure. If you require an angioplasty or stent in addition to the cardiac catheterization, you will likely be admitted to the hospital for an overnight stay.

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.

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 that scheduled your exam.

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:

The Ambulatory Cardiac Unit is in the Heart and Vascular Center (Lot 3 parking is the closest parking). It 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, then proceed to the left through the door into the Ambulatory Care 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.