What is a hemodialysis access ultrasound?
A hemodialysis access ultrasound is a non-invasive test using sound waves, gel and a small probe to produce an image of the arteries and graft/fistula in the arm. An ultrasound uses no radiation, dyes, or needles.

Why am I having a hemodialysis access ultrasound?
A hemodialysis access ultrasound is used as a surveillance method to evaluate for blockages or areas of narrowing in the graft/fistula. Narrowing or blockages in the graft/fistula are easier to treat if caught early.

How your exam is performed.
• You will be asked a brief history relating to the exam.
• You will be asked to remove any clothing that covers the area(s) being examined.
• You will then be asked to lie on your back and cover up with a gown or blanket.
• A sonographer will apply gel to the area(s) being evaluated. The probe is moved over the exam area and produces a picture for the physician. It is important to relax and remain still for optimal images. You may hear your blood flowing while the sonographer acquires images.
• After the test you may wipe off any excess gel and go home unless you have other scheduled tests.
• A physician will interpret your test results. The doctor who ordered your test will then receive a report and discuss the results with you.

Test Time and Preparation
This test takes approximately 45 minutes to complete.
No preparation is needed.

Please remember to bring the order from your physician and a form of identification.