

# Care Gram

## Echocardiogram

**Date of Test:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Test Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **How the Test Works**

An echocardiogram is an ultrasound of the heart done by using sound waves. The doctor can look at the functions of the heart muscles and the valves. There is not any radiation exposure. This test is also referred to as an echo.

### **Allowing Time**

The test usually takes 30 to 45 minutes.

### **Preparation**

No preparation is required for this test. You may eat normally and continue taking your medications.

### **Registration**

Please report directly to the Cardiology Department at your appointment time. It is located on the first floor of Licking Memorial Hospital.

### **During an Echocardiogram**

- You will be asked to remove your shirt or blouse and put on a hospital gown.
- You will then lie down on your left side.
- A small handheld device called a transducer is passed over your chest to take pictures of your heart. There is gel on the transducer to help with this process.
- Your heart rate and rhythm will be monitored during this time.
- If needed, an IV will be started. You will receive a contrast medication called Definity to help get better pictures of your heart.

### **After the Test**

You may drive yourself home and return to your normal activities the same day.

### **Finding Out the Results**

You will find out the results from the doctor who ordered the test.

### **Appointment Reminder**

Thank you for allowing the Cardiology staff at Licking Memorial Hospital to serve you. Remember, you have an important role in making your test a success. If you have any questions about your test, please call (740) 348-4177.

This Care Gram is for information purposes only. It may become out-of-date over time. Ask a doctor or a healthcare professional about your specific condition.



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