

TRANSESOPHAGEAL ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY

PATIENT: _____

ARRIVAL TIME: _____ DATE: _____

PHYSICIAN: _____

PLEASE REPORT TO THE ASPIRUS HEART & VASCULAR INSTITUTE / EAST ENTRANCE OF THE ASPIRUS WAUSAU HOSPITAL. Due to emergencies and changes in scheduling, your procedure may, unfortunately, be earlier or later than the time originally scheduled.

You have been scheduled for a transesophageal echocardiogram which is a procedure to view the heart by using ultrasound. Ultrasound produces images or pictures of the heart by using sound waves. These images can help identify abnormalities (problems) of the heart muscle, heart valves, and fluid around the heart. An echo probe (the instrument used) is passed into the esophagus or throat. This procedure examines the heart from the inside of the chest and is able to provide a more detailed picture than a surface echocardiogram (An echocardiogram in which the instrument is placed on the outside of the chest). This is a safe test with minimal discomfort.

PATIENT PREPARATION:

1. **Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before your procedure.**
2. If you are a **DIABETIC** and taking the following medications:
 - i. **INSULIN:** Take _____ of the usual dose of insulin in the morning of your procedure.
 - ii. **GLUCOPHAGE/ METFORMIN or GLUCOVANCE:** Do not take the morning of your procedure.
3. **Continue to take all of your other medications with a small amount of water as scheduled by your physician.**
4. **ARRANGEMENTS need to be made for someone to DRIVE you home from the hospital.**
5. You will be kept in the department for an additional ½ to 1 hour for observation.
6. An intravenous (IV) line will be inserted into your forearm. This line will be used to give medications that may be needed.
7. Antibiotics may be given in some patients. These will be given through the IV line.
8. The nurse will spray your throat with a local anesthetic. The doctor will give you a sedative which will make you sleepy and relaxed. Because of the effect of the sedative, it is generally wise not to work the rest of that day. You will need to bring someone with you to the hospital that can drive you home.

DURING THE PROCEDURE:

Passing the echo probe into the esophagus (throat) is done very easily due to the relaxing effort of the medication. The probe does not interfere with your breathing. This test takes approximately 30 minutes.

If you have any questions concerning your transesophageal echocardiography, please call **PROCEDURE SCHEDULING** at Aspirus Cardiovascular Associates at (715)847-2611 or (800)441-4013, extension *52610.