



Imaging Department **Bladder Ultrasound**

Your doctor has scheduled you for a Bladder Ultrasound. This is an examination of your urinary bladder and its ability to empty completely. There are a few things you should know before arriving to the Ultrasound department.

PREPARATION: A full bladder is necessary for the first part of this exam. Adults need to *finish* drinking 16 ounces of fluid, 30 minutes *before* the exam start time. (For example: If your appointment is at 2pm, you need to drink all fluids by 1:15 pm.) Please avoid carbonated and caffeinated beverages. Children 12 and under can drink 12 ounces instead of 16 ounces.

Your bladder may become uncomfortable, but do not empty your bladder until the exam is done. Please speak with an Imaging colleague if you believe you *cannot* hold your bladder and *must* urinate.

This exam needs to be scheduled before a barium study, special procedure (including endoscopies), and/or abdominal/pelvic CT scan.

BEFORE THE TEST: For your safety, you will be asked a number of questions by the sonographer and/or radiologist. Possible questions include, but are not limited to:

- What kind of symptoms are you having?
- Any previous surgeries? Medical history?
- Whether or not you are (or may be) pregnant?

THE TEST: You will be asked to lay on your back for this procedure. The sonographer will apply gel and rub an imaging camera around on your lower abdomen to evaluate your urinary bladder. After the first set of images is taken, you will be asked to then urinate and empty your bladder as completely as possible. You will then return to the bed and lay down for additional images. You will need to lie in position for a total of 15-30 minutes. If you become uncomfortable, the sonographer will attempt to make you more comfortable.

AFTER YOUR TEST: The sonographer must take 5-10 minutes to review your images with the radiologist, to make sure no additional imaging is needed before you leave. There are no restrictions from the Ultrasound Department after your test.

RESULTS: The radiologist will study your images, and will dictate a report which will be transcribed for your physician to review and discuss with you. Your sonographer is unable to give you any results at the time of testing.

Every effort will be made to make you as comfortable as possible during your examination. If you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to the imaging staff at (574) 364-2819.