

Imaging Department **Pregnancy Ultrasound**

Your doctor has scheduled you for a Pregnancy Ultrasound*. This is an examination of your baby, uterus, cervix, and placenta. Measurements for gestational dating, detailed evaluation of baby's body parts, and amniotic fluid measurements are included. *This exam is for medical purposes only.* Evaluation of gender and extra baby pictures are done *if time and fetal position permits.* We try our best to make this experience pleasant for you, but our first priority is to evaluate the well-being of your baby and your own medical condition.

PREPARATION: *A full bladder is necessary* for the first part of this exam to visualize the cervix and uterus. You will need to finish drinking 32 ounces of fluid 45 minutes before the exam start time. (For example: If your appointment is at 2 pm, you need to drink all fluids by 1:15 pm.) Please avoid carbonated and caffeinated beverages.

Your bladder will become uncomfortable, but *do not* empty your bladder until after the exam is done or speaking to an Imaging colleague.

BEFORE THE EXAM: 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:

- Have you had any problems with this or any previous pregnancy?
- The first day of your last menstrual period and/or due date?
- Any previous surgeries? Medical history and latex allergies?

THE EXAM: You will be asked to lay on your back for the procedure. The sonographer will apply gel and rub a camera around on your abdomen to evaluate your uterus and pregnancy. This exam should not cause any discomfort, although you will need to lie in position for 45-60 minutes. If you become uncomfortable, the sonographer will attempt to make you more comfortable.

AFTER YOUR EXAM: 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 in great detail and dictate a report. It will then be transcribed for your ordering physician and faxed to his/her office within 48 business hours so that he/she may review and discuss it with you. **Your sonographer is unable to give you any results at the time of the exam.**

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. *An endovaginal/transvaginal ultrasound exam is frequently done in addition to the above pregnancy exam, especially in early pregnancy (up to 14 weeks). This exam is required by the radiologist to provide more information for a complete exam. Please refer to the "Endovaginal/Transvaginal Ultrasound" sheet for more information.