

TRANSOESOPHAGEAL ECHOCARDIOGRAM – Procedure Code 64302

Arrangements have been made for you to have a special examination called a trans-oesophageal echocardiogram. This is a procedure that allows a full examination of the heart by means of transducer introduced via the gullet. The test itself is performed under sedation administered through a small needle in the hand, (it is not a general anaesthetic). The sedative used is fast acting and allows the test to be performed in comfort. In addition, we use a local anaesthetic spray for the throat. Please do not worry about the test – it will not cause you any discomfort.

Please refrain from having anything to eat or drink from 6.30am on the day of the examination. Before this time you may have a light breakfast.

Please contact your consultant if you have a heavy cold as it may be better to postpone the examination until you feel better.

After the test you will feel drowsy for a while. After about two to three hours most patients are awake and the numbness of the throat, due to the local anaesthetic, has worn off. As with any type of sedation you **must not** work, drive a car, operate machinery or drink alcohol on the day of the examination and because of the injection, you **must not** return home on public transport such as a train or a bus. Therefore a friend or relative must accompany you home.

We would prefer that you refrain from smoking for 24 hours prior to the procedure.