Going Home

Your blood pressure and pulse will be monitored until they are back to where you started. You will rest either in bed with the head slightly elevated, or in a chair.

The intravenous line will be discontinued. The numbness in your throat from the local anesthetic will wear off in about one hour. When you are able to swallow without problems you may go home.

During the rest of the day you will be able to swallow sips of warm or room temperature liquids. You can advance to drinking clear liquids like soda, tea, or broth. When you are ready go back to your regular diet. If your throat is sore, throat lozenges will help.

Follow-Up

The results of the test will be sent to your doctor who will discuss the findings with you at your next appointment.

Questions

If you have any questions, or need to cancel your appointment, please call your cardiology doctor.

Date: ________________________________

Time: ________________________________

Important Telephone Numbers

Cardiology - Tower Health Medical Group
610-375-6565

Billing Office
484-628-5820

• Call if you have any questions about your bill.

Patient Advocate
484-628-8663

• Let us know how you felt about your experience at Miller Regional Heart Center.

Call 9-1-1 if you have a life-threatening emergency.
What Is a TEE?
Cardiac ultrasound is a way to get pictures of your heart using sound waves or echoes. A transesophageal echocardiogram (TEE) is a special form of a cardiac ultrasound. A scope with a device that directs the sound waves is passed into your esophagus, behind the heart. As the sound waves make contact with your heart a computer turns the sound waves into moving images.

This procedure will take several hours.

Before the Procedure
Be sure to arrange for a ride home after the procedure with a friend or family member (use of public transit or taxi/Uber is not permitted). The sedation you receive will seriously affect your ability to drive. For your safety, we suggest that you have a responsible adult stay with you or check on you for the first 24 hours following the procedure. You will be able to return to driving and work after the first 24 hours.

Day Before Procedure
Nothing to eat or drink after midnight the evening before your procedure.

Day of Procedure
- Take your medicines, including blood thinners, as directed with a small sip of water.
- Wear comfortable, loose-fitting clothing. A top and pants is ideal.
- Follow any other instructions your doctor gives you.

What to Bring
- Legal form of photo identification, such as a driver’s license.
- Health plan identification cards.
- Referral forms, if required by your health plan.
- A list of allergies you have to food, drugs, or latex.
- A list of ALL of your current medications. This includes drugs prescribed by your doctor and any other medicines you take. This may include over-the-counter medicines, herbal remedies, vitamins, supplements, and diet pills. Tell us the exact name of the medicine, the strength, the dose you take, and how often you take it. This information is on the label of all prescription drugs and other medications.

Checking In – Reading Hospital
Parking: Use the 5th Avenue garage. You will receive a parking tag in advance of your appointment. Please hang this tag from your rearview mirror. Park in spaces marked with red Miller Regional Heart Center symbols that match the symbol on your parking tag. For FREE valet parking, patient drop-off, or assistance, follow the driveway to the valet station. The station will be marked in blue. Our valets wear blue shirts.

If you prefer to park your own car:
Instead of going straight to the valet station, make the first left into the 5th Avenue Garage. Proceed up one level. Park in ANY “Reserved Parking - Patients Only” parking spot.

Entrance: Our Valet will direct you to the Security Desk. A Security Officer will help you find the Miller Regional Heart Center registration. If parked on your own, look for the Miller Regional Heart Center entrance which connects with level 1 of the garage. Check in at the Security Desk. Our Security Officer will point you to the Miller Regional Heart Center registration.

Check-In: Check in with the front desk when you arrive. You will verify personal and health plan information.

Family: All visitors must obtain a Visitor Pass from security desk. Your family can wait for you in the waiting area.

The Procedure
Many individuals will be present during the procedure: a cardiologist, a nurse, an anesthesiologist, or CRNA, and an ultrasound technologist.

Your pulse, blood pressure, and oxygen level will be monitored during the test. An intravenous (IV) line will be inserted to give you medicine to help you relax, feel comfortable and sleepy throughout the procedure.

As the study begins, your throat will be sprayed with a medicine to make it numb. If dentures are worn, you will be asked to remove them. A plastic guard will be placed between your teeth to help get the scope in the right position.

To help with the test you will lie on your left side. Similar to the dentist, the nurse will clean out saliva by suctioning your mouth. The lights in the room will be dimmed to provide a better view of the screen.

This part of the procedure takes about 15 minutes.