



## SALINE CONTRAST ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY Patient Preparation Instructions

\_\_\_\_\_ Davenport Diagnostic Center  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Genesis Heart Institute  
1236 East Rusholme  
Davenport, IA 52803  
(563) 324-2992

\_\_\_\_\_ Moline Diagnostic Center  
1100 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Moline, IL 61265  
(309) 743-6700

\_\_\_\_\_ Clinton Outreach Clinic  
1st Floor, South Entrance  
Mercy Medical Center  
638 South Bluff Blvd.  
Clinton, IA 52732  
(563) 244-3526

Your test is scheduled on: DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

- **Please read these instructions carefully. Failure to follow these instructions may require the procedure to be rescheduled.**
- **If you need to cancel or reschedule this test you MUST call 48 hours prior to your appointment time.**
- **If your insurance has changed since the time your test was scheduled, please check with your current insurer to see if test pre-certification is required.**

### What is a Saline Contrast Echocardiogram test?

An echocardiogram is an ultrasound procedure that looks at the heart. A Saline Contrast test consists of an IV being placed in your arm or hand, this is to administer agitated saline (salt water solution). The saline is used to specifically look at the atrial septum in your heart as ordered by your physician. Saline (salt water solution) is injected into the IV by the nurse and the sonographer will acquire images. **The patient should experience no side effects from this test.**

### How do I prepare for the test?

- You can eat and drink normally before this test.
- You can take all of your medications before this test.
- Wear comfortable two-piece clothing.
- Please shower or bathe before your test.
- Please allow 45 minutes for this test.

### Upon arrival at the doctor's office...

A sonographer will escort you to an exam room and explain the procedure. You will be asked to remove your clothing from the waist up. Women will be provided a cape to wear. The procedure is typically performed while you lie on your back and left side. The sonographer will place a small amount of gel on an ultrasound probe and place it on different areas of your chest. The test will take about 30-45 minutes to complete. A copy of your test report will be sent to your physician