



Echocardiography

To Schedule: (319) 861-7778

Questions about procedure: (319) 221-8500

What is Echocardiography?

Echocardiography (echo) is an imaging test that uses safe sound waves that help your doctor see how well your heart muscle and valves are working. It also shows the size of your heart. A computer changes the sound waves into images that are viewed on a screen.

Why should I have an Echocardiogram?

An echo is very safe and painless. The test results help the doctor plan your treatment and any other tests that are needed.

Preparation:

Please review with your doctor or your doctor's nurse.

- Wear a comfortable, two-piece outfit.
- Bring a list of your current medications with you to the procedure.
- Please bring photo ID.

Procedure:

After you arrive for your echo, you'll be asked to undress from the waist up and put on a hospital gown. Small pads (electrodes) are placed on your chest to monitor your heartbeat. A technician moves a device (transducer) coated with cool gel firmly over your chest. At times you may be asked to exhale and hold your breath for a few seconds. Air in your lungs can affect the images. Plan to allow 45 minutes - 1 hour from arrival to the time you can leave.

Outpatient Registration:

Please park in the Mercy Parking ramp located at 8th Avenue and 8th Street SE. Enter the hospital at the South entrance on ground floor. Proceed to the Non-Invasive Cardiology department.

Your appointment date and time: