**Barium Enema (BAE)**

**Department of Radiology, 319-398-6050**

**WHAT IT IS:**
A barium enema procedure is an x-ray of the colon or large intestine. You will be given an enema of liquid barium while the radiologist takes x-rays of your colon. The technologist will assist you throughout the exam and may add air during the enema procedure at the radiologist’s request. The procedure will take about 45 minutes.

**PREPARATION:**
The standard preparation for a barium enema includes a low-residue diet, clear liquids, and laxatives. Refer to the “Barium Enema Prep” sheet and follow the three-day colon prep. If you have any questions about the diet or prep, call the Radiology Department at 319-398-6050.

**PROCEDURE:**
1. The technologist will explain the procedure and answer any questions you have about the exam.
2. The barium will be released into your colon as you lie on the table, and air may be added during the procedure.
3. You will be asked to lie in various positions so that your colon fills with barium. The technologist will assist you if necessary.
4. Near the end of the procedure, when all the barium and air have been given, you may feel “full” and anxious to use the restroom. It is just a few steps away, and you will be directed to it as soon as the exam is completed.

**FOLLOW-UP:**
1. Drink plenty of liquids for several days following the procedure. If you are easily constipated, you may take a mild laxative; consult your doctor as to the type of laxative you may use.
2. The results of your exam will be sent to your doctor within two working days.

**OUTPATIENT REGISTRATION:**
**Please arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled appointment time.** Park in the Mercy Medical Center Parking Ramp, located at the corner of 8th Street and 8th Avenue SE. **You must register PRIOR to your procedure.** Upon entering the hospital, proceed to Ground (G) level and follow the signs to “Registration.” After 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or on the weekends, proceed to Ground (G) level and follow the signs to the “Emergency Department” and register there. After registering, follow the signs to “Radiology (X-Ray)”, also located on Ground (G) level.

**Your appointment date and time:**

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