WHAT IS ULTRASOUND?
Ultrasound is an easy and noninvasive way to see internal structures of the body. It sends high-frequency sound waves through the skin and produces images of major organs and vessels. A transducer, sends a brief pulse of sound into the body. This sound travels into the body, and when it reaches a structure, the traveling pulse sends back a little echo. A high-speed computer “translates” the echo into an image which can be seen on a TV monitor.

WHAT IS DOPPLER?
Doppler ultrasound is a special form of ultrasound. With Doppler ultrasound, it is possible to both see the structures inside the body and to evaluate blood flow at the same time. An audible sound may be used or the flow may be shown as a graphic or color display.

WHY SHOULD I HAVE AN ULTRASOUND?
A Doppler ultrasound exam gives your doctor a great deal of information about your blood vessels and about the way the blood is passing through them. Doppler may be used almost anywhere. One of the common uses of Doppler ultrasound is to look at the veins in the legs to evaluate for blood clots.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT DURING THE EXAM?
The pictures made by the returning echoes are displayed on a TV screen, which are watched by the technologist performing the scan. In addition, returning sound waves that have been struck by moving blood can be heard by means of speakers on the sides of the machine. They may sound like water in a washing machine or the wind gusting.

Veins are very compressible. During the exam, the technologist will apply pressure to confirm compressibility of the vein.

PREPARATION:
No preparation necessary.

PROCEDURE:
A gel-like substance is applied to your skin and the transducer is then placed on the area to be examined. The ultrasound transducer is pressed against your leg to compress the vein which can cause some discomfort. This compression is necessary to rule out clots in the vein. Pictures are taken during the procedure along with blood flow measurements. The average Doppler ultrasound exam takes about 30 minutes.

FOLLOW-UP:
The results of your exam will be sent to your physician.
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:__________________________________