

Preparing for your Diagnostic Ultrasound:

- Some ultrasound procedures require special preparation. You will be given the appropriate instructions needed for your ultrasound by either the Medical Imaging Center or your physician.
- Please follow the instructions carefully.

You have an important role in this procedure. By properly following the prep instructions you are helping to make the exam a success!

Ultrasound Exam Prep

Abdomen: Nothing to eat or drink 8 hours prior to your exam. Medications may be taken with a small sip of water.

Pelvic or 1st Trimester OB: Bladder must be very full. Drink 32 oz. of liquid 1 hour before the exam without urinating.

Abdomen/Pelvic: Nothing to eat 8 hours prior to exam. Drink 32 oz. of water 1 hour prior to your exam without urinating.

Renal and Bladder: Drink clear fluids 1 hour prior to the exam without emptying your bladder.

Bladder: Drink 16 oz. of clear fluids 1 hour prior to exam, and do not empty bladder.

Renal Artery or Abdominal Doppler: Nothing to eat or drink 8 hours prior to your procedure.

Your Ultrasound is scheduled:

Date _____

Time _____

Please arrive 15 minutes before your appointment to register in the Medical Imaging Center.

Bring your insurance information, including the insurance company policy number, to the registrar. Please bring your physician order.

This procedure usually takes about one hour, although you should be prepared for possible delay in case of unexpected emergency procedures, which may occur in the hospital and require attention within the Medical Imaging Center.

You will receive two bills for your ultrasound:

1. From Culpeper Regional Hospital
2. From the radiologist or cardiologist interpreting your sonogram.

If you need to change the time or cancel your appointment, please call
(540) 829-8855 or 540-829-8854.

Diagnostic Ultrasound



Medical Imaging Center
Culpeper Regional Hospital
501 Sunset Lane
Culpeper, VA 22701

What is Diagnostic Ultrasound?

Diagnostic Ultrasound is a painless and harmless procedure that uses sound waves, not x-rays, to create images of tissues and organs within the body.

During pregnancy, ultrasound helps obstetricians examine and measure the unborn baby.

Arteries and veins in the neck, arms and legs can also be imaged by ultrasound.

For Your Health

We respect your decision to do this procedure to improve or maintain your good health. Our goal is to make this as easy and comfortable as possible.

We invite your questions before and during the procedure, and hope you will take a few minutes to complete our Outpatient Comment Card before you leave. Your comments will help CRH to continue to improve this important service.

What to expect during the procedure:

A technologist called a sonographer, who is trained in ultrasound imaging, will perform your exam after explaining it to you and answering any questions you may have. The sonographer may ask you pertinent questions about your symptoms and history. The exam may take around one hour to complete.

- Depending on the exam ordered for you, the sonographer may ask you to remove some of your clothing and wear a hospital gown. He/she will keep you as comfortable as possible.
- After you lie down, a water-soluble gel is applied to your skin. The sonographer will place the ultrasound probe to your skin. As the probe is moved, images of your organs will appear on the flat screen monitor, and they will be permanently recorded for the specialists to review.
- The sonographer may have you remain in the ultrasound room while he or she presents the case to the specialist. They are just assuring that there is enough information for the doctor to make a diagnosis.

And after the Diagnostic Ultrasound?

You may dress and leave the Medical Imaging Center at Culpeper Regional Hospital.

You will have no dietary or other kinds of restrictions as a result of having this procedure.

The images, called sonograms, will be interpreted by a board-certified radiologist, a physician who specializes in medical imaging.

The radiologist's report is sent to your physician, who will discuss the results with you. The report for a routine study usually gets to your physician within two business days.

A cardiologist reads vascular studies, and his/her report will be sent to your physician who will discuss the results with you.