

## Preparing for your Upper GI Series:

- You cannot eat or drink anything from midnight the day of your exam until your exam is finished.
- We recommend that you not smoke nor chew gum from midnight the day of your exam until your exam is finished.

You have an important role in this procedure. To ensure the success of it, please properly follow all of the prep instructions given to you.

## Your Upper GI Series 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.

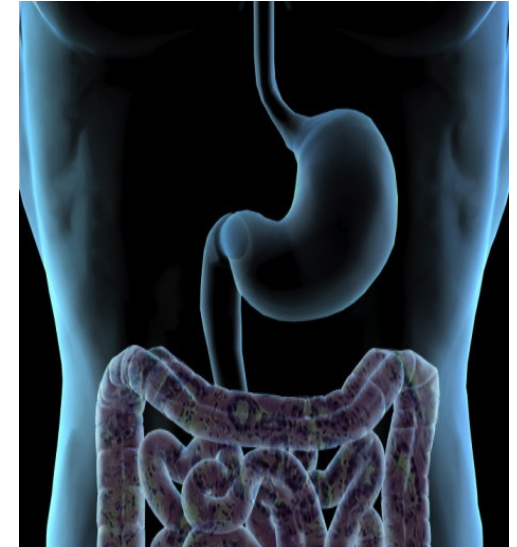
The procedure usually takes about one hour, although you should be prepared for possible delay in case of unexpected emergency procedures, which may occur in the hospital and require attention within the Medical Imaging Center.

You will receive two bills:

1. From Culpeper Regional Hospital.
2. From the radiologist interpreting the film from your exam.

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

# Upper GI Series



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

## What is an Upper GI Series?

An Upper GI Series is an x-ray of the gastrointestinal system, which includes your upper digestive tract, lower esophagus, stomach and upper small bowel. Because x-rays pass readily through the soft tissues of the body, such as those in your upper digestive tract, a *contrast medium* called barium is used to color your digestive tract so it shows up clearly on film.

### 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 for you 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 radiologist, a physician who specializes in medical imaging, and a radiologic technologist, who is trained in the use of radiographic equipment, will perform your exam.

- The technologist will ask you to remove your clothes and wear a hospital gown.
- You will be asked a series of questions about your health history and the reasons for the test.
- If there is a possibility that you may be pregnant, be sure to inform the radiologist or technologist before this procedure.
- The technologist will take an image of your abdomen to assure that no abnormalities exist before you drink the barium.
- Using a machine called a fluoroscope, the radiologist will watch you drink the barium. You may be asked to be very still in several positions and hold your breath when images are taken. Any motion may create a blurry image. The table may tilt up or down.
- When the radiologist is finished taking images of selected areas, the technologist will take images of the stomach, esophagus or small bowel as directed by the radiologist.

- The radiologist will review images to be sure they contain all the necessary information. Sometimes more images will be taken.

## And after the Upper GI Series?

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

You may experience constipation from the barium and you can expect to pass whitish stool for a few days following the procedure (from the barium). Drink plenty of fluids and resume your normal diet immediately, unless your doctor tells you otherwise.

The radiologist's report will be sent to your physician who will discuss the results with you.