



## TRANSESOPHAGEAL ECHOCARDIOGRAM (TEE)

A TEE is done to help evaluate the heart, often when a regular echo doesn't show certain areas of the heart well. It is performed by passing a small round probe into your esophagus (food pipe). This lets the doctor see clear pictures of your heart.

The doctor will spray the back of your throat to make it numb. An IV will be inserted into your arm so medication can be given to help you relax. You may feel very relaxed and sleepy. You may have a slight sore throat after the procedure.

### **What I need to know:**

Do not eat or drink anything after midnight on the day before your exam.

You may take your medications with just a sip of water.

Please have a friend or family member bring you to the hospital on the day of your test. **You will not be able to drive for the rest of the day after your exam, and the test will not be performed if you do not have a driver.**

Arrive about 30 minutes prior to your scheduled test, so you may be prepared for the test.

Plan on being at the hospital approximately 2 or 3 hours. The actual test takes about 20 minutes, but you will have about a 1 hour recovery period where you are monitored and checked by a nurse until you are fully awake.

Report to the Bedford Building which is adjacent to the main hospital at 6<sup>th</sup> and Bedford. Cardiovascular Services is immediately off of the lobby to the right, in the Heart Center.