

## Having an Ultrasound

Your child's ultrasound is scheduled for (date) \_\_\_\_\_ at (time) \_\_\_\_\_ in the Imaging (Radiology) Department at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. Please stop at a Welcome desk for a badge and directions.

### What is an ultrasound?

An ultrasound is done to look at the soft parts inside the body. It is not an x-ray. It uses sound waves to make images of body parts. Your child will not hear or feel the sound waves.

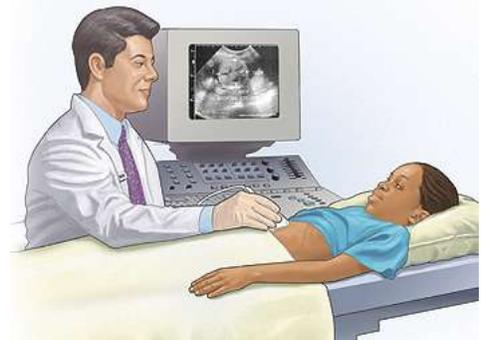
### Special Instructions

- How you get your child ready depends on what body part needs to be checked. The doctor or nurse will give you special instructions for your child. It is important that you follow these instructions.
- **If your child had a barium or other x-ray study within the last 48 hours, let the doctor know.**
- **If your child is told to have nothing to eat or drink before the test, follow these directions:**
  - 0 to 6 months old: nothing to eat or drink 3 hours before the test.
  - 7 months to 3 years old: nothing to eat or drink 4 hours before the test.
  - 4 to 6 years old: nothing to eat or drink 6 hours before the test.
  - 7 years and older: nothing to eat or drink 8 hours before the test.

**Please note: It is important that you follow these directions.** If your child eats or drinks anything after the times listed above, **the test may be cancelled.**

### How the test is done

- Your child will go to a special room and will lie on a bed. The room may be a little dark so that the person doing the test can see pictures clearly on a TV screen. A small amount of lotion will be put on your child's skin over the area to be checked.
- A transducer, which looks like a microphone, is attached to the ultrasound machine. The person doing the test will gently move the transducer over your child's skin. This does not hurt. The machine makes pictures that are put on film so that the doctor can look at them later. It is important that your child holds very still for these pictures. When the test is done, the lotion will be wiped off. Please be sure to ask any questions you have.



## **Results**

A doctor who has special training in reading ultrasound pictures, called a radiologist, will look at the pictures at the end of the test. If there are any questions, the radiologist may talk to you before you leave the hospital. A report is sent to your child's doctor within 24 hours. Your child's doctor will discuss the results with you.

**ALERT:** Call your child's doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any questions or concerns or if your child has special health care needs that were not covered by this information.

**This teaching sheet is meant to help you care for your child. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.**