

## Having a Pelvic Ultrasound

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

### What is an ultrasound?

- An ultrasound is a test that is done to look at the structure of soft body parts. This includes the gall bladder, liver, heart, and kidneys.
- It uses sound waves to make images of body parts.
- It is not an x-ray.

### How do I prepare my child?

Your child will need to drink water before the ultrasound. Please follow these directions on the day of the test:

- 0 to 6 months old.** Try to have your baby drink liquids one-half hour before the test. This includes breastmilk and/or formula.
- 7 months to 3 years old.** Have your child drink 8 to 10 ounces of water one-half hour before the test. If your child will not drink water, try giving clear juice. If potty-trained, try to keep your child from using the bathroom until the test is done.

**If your child has a very full bladder when you get to Imaging, tell the person who registers your child. They will try to get your child taken right to the ultrasound scanning room.**

- 4 to 6 years old.** Have your child drink 6 to 12 oz of water within one-half hour before the test. **Do not let your child use the bathroom** until the ultrasound is done.
- 7 to 12 years old.** Have your child drink 16 oz of water starting one hour before the test. **Do not let your child use the bathroom** until the test is done.
- 13 years and older.** Have your child drink 24 to 36 oz of **water only** starting one hour before the test. **Do not let your child use the bathroom** until the test is done.

Water is the best drink before the ultrasound. It filters through the body faster and helps the test to be done faster. **Please do not let your child drink any carbonated drinks or juices before the ultrasound.** The ultrasound cannot be done until your child has a full bladder. They need to feel like they have to go to the bathroom.

## How the test is done

- Your child will lie on a bed in a special room for the test. The room will be dark so that the person doing the exam can see pictures clearly on a TV screen. A small amount of warm gel will be put on your child's skin over the area to be checked.
- A hand-held probe, called a transducer, is attached to the ultrasound machine. The technologist doing the exam will gently move the transducer over your child's skin. It 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 gel will be wiped off. During the exam, 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 exam. If there are any questions, the radiologist may talk with 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.**