**Esophagus/Barium Swallow**

Welcome to VCU Health Diagnostic Imaging. We are located in the Main Hospital 3rd floor, 1200 East Marshall Street. Our hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. Advanced scheduling is required for all diagnostic fluoroscopy exams. Please review the following information about your test. Please call (804) 628-3580 to schedule your test or if you have any questions about your diagnostic fluoroscopy exam.

**What is it?**
Imaging of the throat and the “food pipe” that leads to the stomach.

**Why are you having this test?**
You are having this study to establish presence or absence, nature or extent of disease affecting esophagus. Imaging from esophagram studies can reveal abnormalities related to:
- Difficulty Swallowing
- Reflux
- Severe indigestion
- Hiatal Hernias
- Scarring/Blockages
- Tumors or Ulcers
- Inflammation of the esophagus

**Preparing for the test**
- No food or drink except clear liquids 8 hours prior to exam
- Bring a picture ID and insurance information
- Bring current list of medications (including over the counter, herbal, vitamins, supplements, etc.) and current allergies
- Please arrive 30 minutes before your appointment time

**What to expect during the test**
- This study will take about 30 minutes to an 1 hour
- You will change in to a hospital gown
- A chest x-ray will be obtained
- You will be standing if possible or laying down on a fluoroscopy table moving in different positions while drinking a contrast agent. The radiologist will take images using fluoroscopy x-ray equipment while you are drinking.

**After Care information**
- You may resume normal activity, eating and drinking after exam unless otherwise specified by your physician.
- The Barium contrast can turn your stool a gray or white color for 48 – 72 hours. It may also cause constipation.
- Unless fluids are restricted by the doctor, the patient should drink fluids (more than normal) to help the contrast move out of their system.

**Contact information if questions or concerns**
- Any questions: please contact us at (804) 828-5500 and ask for a radiology technologist. If After hours, please call (804) 828-3699.

**Follow-Up Care after the procedure**
- Results will be available 1-2 business days on the patient portal and to your ordering physician.
- For results: please contact the physician that ordered your test