

# Diagnostic Fluoroscopy Patient Information

## Esophagus/Barium Swallow

Welcome to VCU Health Diagnostic Imaging. We are located in the Main Hospital 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

