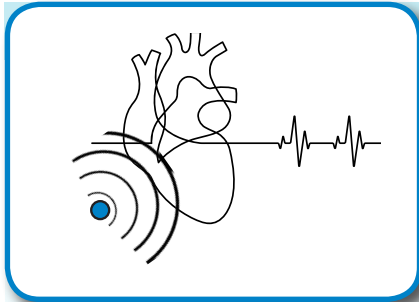


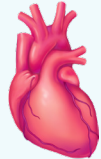
Echocardiogram



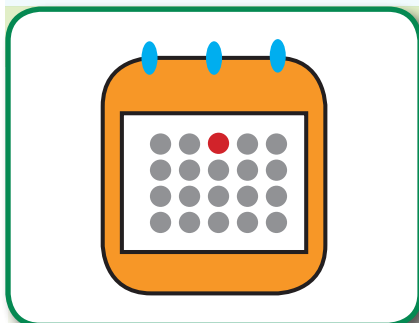
What is an echocardiogram?

A test to check:

- How your heart and heart valves are working
- How well your heart is pumping blood
- The size of your heart's 4 chambers



- If you have growths on your heart
- How well your plan of care is working

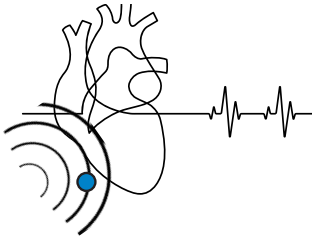


How do I Get Ready for the Echocardiogram?

- You can eat and drink as you normally do.
- Take all your normal medications.
- Wear anything you like. You will wear a hospital gown for the test.



What Happens During the Echocardiogram?



- You will lie on your side on a special table.

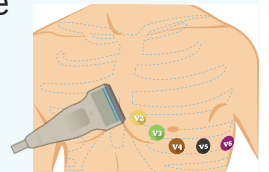


- Three small, sticky patches are put on your chest to record your heart rate and rhythm.

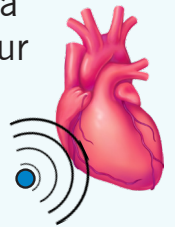


- The person doing the test will put gel on the end of a wand.

- He or she will move the wand over your chest. The gel may feel cool on your skin.



- The wand sends sound waves (ultrasound) to a machine. The ultrasound creates pictures of your heart.



- You will hear noises and see pictures of your heart on the screen.

- You may need to change positions and hold your breath at times during the test.



- The test does not hurt.



How long does the test take?

- The test takes about 1 hour.

How do I get the results of my test?

- A cardiologist will read your test results and send them to your doctor.
- Your doctor will talk to you about the results.

