



UnityPoint Clinic

*Pediatric Cardiology*

## **WHAT IS AN ELECTROCARDIOGRAM AND WHY THEY ARE DONE**

An electrocardiogram, EKG, is a diagnostic tool that records electrical impulses within the heart. This tool makes sure that the electrical impulses are firing at the correct time and being received to the correct place. An EKG only takes a few minutes to perform.

During the test, 13 stickers will be placed on the chest and legs. They will then be connected to the EKG machine using cords. A tracing of the heart will immediately appear on the EKG screen. It is important that during the tracing the patient remains still. Once the patient is still, the tracing takes 10 seconds and will then be printed for the doctor to review.

