

PCI Medical Pavilion
202 10th St. SE, Suite 225
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403
800/982-1959 or 319/364-7101

Jones Regional Medical Center
1795 Highway 64 East
Anamosa, IA 52205
800/982-1959 or 319-481-6213

Regional Medical Center
709 W Main Street, Suite 100
Manchester, IA 52057
800/982-1959 or 563/927-2855

Unitypoint.org/cardiologyclinic



Echocardiogram (ECHO)

What is an Echocardiogram?

An echocardiogram is an imaging technology that uses high frequency sound waves (ultrasound) to create moving pictures of the heart.

Why is an Echocardiogram performed?

An echocardiogram allows the doctor to see different parts of your heart and how well they are working. The doctor looks at the valves of the heart, the size of the heart, and also how your heart moves with each beat.

What should I wear for the test?

Wear a shirt or blouse that can be taken off easily. Females may be asked to remove their bras.

What should you expect during the test?

- You will be asked to remove outer clothing and put on a patient gown.
- Images will be taken as you lie in a bed on your left side.
- The lights in the room will be dimmed so the ultrasound screen can be seen clearly.
- The sonographer will place a water-soluble gel on your chest and firmly press against your skin with a transducer (probe.) The transducer is a small hand-held device that resembles a microphone. When the transducer is placed against the skin, an image of your heart is displayed on a screen.

How long does the test take to complete?

The test will take about 1 hour to complete.

Specific preparation

- **Do NOT** apply cologne, perfume, body lotions, or powder.

Will I have any pain or discomfort during the test?

This test does not usually cause pain, but there may be some discomfort. There may be some discomfort from the transducer being moved around on your chest. The sonographer may have to push the transducer into your side to get clear pictures of your heart.

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Appointment:

Date: _____

Time: _____

Are any medications used during the test?

For most people there are no medications used for the test. Sometimes the sonographer will want to use a contrast medication to help them collect better pictures for the doctor. An IV may have to be started if this special medication is needed.

What should you expect after the test?

The gel will be cleaned from your chest and there are generally no after effects from the test. If a contrast medication is used the sonographer or a nurse will talk with you regarding any possible side effects.

When will you know the results of your test?

The pictures of your heart will be reviewed by a board certified cardiologist. The results of the test will be sent to the doctor that ordered the test for you. The test results will also be sent to your family doctor. It may take 3 to 4 days before you know the results of your test. The sonographer that is performing your test will not give you the results of the test after he or she finishes taking the pictures.

Important Billing Information

If you are unable to keep your testing appointment, you must contact UnityPoint Health-Cardiology Clinic 24 hours prior to your test time. Scheduled testing appointments that are missed or cancelled without the 24 hour advance notice may be subject to charges for pharmaceuticals or supplies specifically ordered for your test.