Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns. UWMC Interventional staff are also available to help at any time.

Imaging Services: 206-598-6200

- Patients are usually watched for 4 to 6 hours after the procedure. Plan to stay for at least this amount of time.
- Depending on your procedure, some of your movement may be limited.
- Before you leave the hospital, the nurse will give you written instructions for you to follow at home.

Interventional Radiology

How to prepare for your procedure

You have been referred for a procedure in the Interventional Radiology department at University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC). This handout provides information that you need to know before your procedure.
Before Your Procedure

- For most procedures, you must have blood work done within 30 days of your visit. This is to be done by your referring doctor. If it has not been done, please contact your doctor before your appointment date.
- If you are allergic to X-ray contrast (dye), contact your referring doctor. You must receive medicine for this allergy before the day of your procedure.
- If you take any blood-thinning medicines such as Coumadin or Aspirin, contact your doctor for instructions. You may need to stop taking the medicine for a while.
- If you have diabetes and take insulin or pills such as Glucophage to control your blood sugar, contact your doctor and ask about any dose changes for the morning of your procedure.
- Arrange for a responsible person to drive you to and from the hospital.
- Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before your procedure.
- If you take any daily medicines, you may take your morning dose with a small sip of water on the day of your procedure.

When You Arrive

- Check in at the front desk in the Radiology department.
- The nurse will give you a hospital gown to put on and a bag to put your belongings in. You may also use the restroom at this time.
- You will be taken to a pre-procedure area where a nurse will give you a health exam.
- An intravenous line (IV) will be started. The IV will supply you with fluids and medicine during the procedure.
- The radiology doctor will see you to discuss the procedure and get your consent. You will be able to ask any questions at this time.

Your Angiography Procedure

- The nurse will take you to the angiography suite. This nurse will be with you for the entire procedure.
- The nurse may place a tube in your bladder to drain urine, if needed.
- A radiology technologist will clean your skin with a special soap. They may also shave some hair in the areas where the doctors will be working.
- The nurse may give you medicine to help you feel drowsy and relaxed during the procedure.

After Your Procedure

- You will be watched closely for a short time in the Radiology department.
- Most patients will then go to a short-stay post-procedure unit in the hospital, unless their referring doctor has made other plans.
- You should be able to eat, drink, and take your usual medicines.
- Your family member or driver can be with you.