

**Your Doctor has ordered the following test:**

Test: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Hold these medications: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Location:**

- Unity Professional Building**  
(located next to Unity Hospital)  
500 Osborne Road # 120  
Fridley, MN 55432
- The Heart Center #008**  
4040 Coon Rapids Blvd.  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433
- Nuclear Medicine-Buffalo Hospital**  
303 Catlin  
Buffalo, MN 55313

Toll Free Number 1-866-450-7999

Please arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment for registration.

**If you need to reschedule or cancel your appointment, please call 763-576-7101.**

**For questions related to your test, please call 763-427-9980 and ask to speak to a nurse.**

# CORONARY CT ANGIOGRAM

[www.metrocardiology.com](http://www.metrocardiology.com)

METROPOLITAN CARDIOLOGY CONSULTANTS

MCC9202\_0206

**Metropolitan Cardiology  
Consultants**

# CORONARY CT ANGIOGRAM

## General Information

This procedure is a non-invasive method of visualizing the coronary arteries by use of x-rays with computerized images. These images are then assembled with a computer to create a 3-dimensional picture of the heart and the arteries.

Although the test itself takes only a few minutes, you should plan for about 2 hours. It takes some time to get ready for the test and for observation afterwards.

## Before the procedure

- Do not eat or drink anything for 3 hours before the procedure.
- Do not take any medication containing NSAIDs (ibuprofen, naprosyn, etc.) for 48 hours prior to the procedure. If you are unsure about your medicines, please contact your primary doctor.
- Do not take Viagra, Cialis or Levitra for 72 hours prior to the procedure.
- DO take your other medicines as usual- including ones for blood pressure.

## During the procedure

Prior to the start of the test, an IV will be placed in your arm. To obtain clear pictures, a heart rate of less than 60 beats per minute is needed. Since the average person's heart rate is above 60 beats per minute, medication is often given the day of the test to achieve this goal. The medicine is given both orally and through the IV. When the necessary heart rate is achieved, the CT tech will have you lie on your back on the scanner table with your arms above your head. You will be asked to hold your breath for approximately 20 seconds during the exam. As you pass through the x-ray beams, the contrast will be injected into the IV to visualize the vessels. During the injection of the contrast you will feel a hot sensation throughout your body. This will pass quickly.

## After the Procedure

Following the procedure, you will stay for 15-20 minutes for observation. Then you will be allowed to go home. You may drive yourself home. You may eat and should drink plenty of fluids following the test today. The IV contrast you receive will be filtered from your bloodstream by your kidneys during the next 24 hours. You will not be aware of this and your urine will not change color.

**Drinking 4 extra glasses of water** or juice will help this process and reduce stress to your kidneys.

**If you are diabetic and take medicine containing metformin, it is important that you STOP TAKING METFORMIN for 48 hours following the test to avoid a possible side effect.**

The following medicines contain metformin:

- Glucophage (Metformin)
- Glucovance (glyburide/metformin)
- Metaglip (glipizide/metformin)
- Avandamet (rosiglitazone/metformin)

Please contact your doctor to talk about how to manage your diabetes for the 48 hours following the test and to obtain clearance to resume your medication.

Most contrast reactions are immediate. Should you develop symptoms of concern after discharge, contact the department at the number below. After hours you should contact your primary physician. **If you develop difficulty breathing or wheezing, call 911.**

The doctor that ordered this procedure will contact you with the results of this test.