

# Care Gram

## Cardioversion

Date of Test: \_\_\_\_\_ Test Time: \_\_\_\_\_

### What Is a Cardioversion?

Cardioversion is used if you have an irregular heart rhythm called atrial fibrillation or atrial flutter. During cardioversion, a controlled amount of electrical current is given to return your heart rhythm to a regular rhythm. A trained registered nurse and a cardiologist perform the test.

Cardioversion usually takes 2 hours. This includes the preparation, test, and recovery. If you have any questions about your test, please call (220) 564-4177.

### How Do I Prepare for a Cardioversion?

- Do not eat or drink for 6 to 8 hours before the test.
- Take your medications on the day of the test with no more than 4 ounces of water.
- Bring someone with you to drive you home after the test.

### How Do I Register for a Cardioversion?

Please report directly to Cardiac Services, located on the Licking Memorial Hospital (LMH) Second Floor at your appointment time.

### What Can I Expect During a Cardioversion?

- An IV will be started.
- You will receive medication to help you sleep for a short time.
- You will have a large pad placed on your back and your chest.
- After you are asleep, a small electric current is given through the pads.

### What Should I Do After the Test?

- Use hydrocortisone ointment on any reddened areas.
- You will need to have someone drive you home from the Hospital.
- You may return to your normal activities the next day unless instructed differently.

### Finding Out the Results

You will know the results of the test before you leave. You also will be given a follow-up appointment time before you leave.

Thank you for allowing the LMH Cardiology staff to serve you. Remember, you have an important role in making your test a success.

This Care Gram is for information purposes only. It may become out-of-date over time. Ask a doctor or a healthcare professional about your specific condition.



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