Care Gram

Peripheral Vascular Tests

(AAA Screening or Abdominal Test)

Date of Test: _____ Test Time: _____

About the Tests
Peripheral vascular testing is a painless, noninvasive test. It helps your doctor look at possible circulation disorders. A special probe (a doppler) is used with water-based gel on the skin. This probe is used to pick up the sound of the blood flow. Specially trained staff perform the test. A vascular surgeon reads the test results. There are several types of peripheral vascular tests. Instructions for the AAA (abdominal aortic aneurysm) screening and abdominal test are included below. Please see the checked boxes below and on the following page for information on your specific test.

Allowing Time
The AAA screening takes about 10 to 15 minutes. The abdominal test takes 30 to 60 minutes. Your test may be repeated for follow-up care.

Registering
Please report directly to Diagnostic Imaging for your scheduled test. Diagnostic Imaging is located on the Licking Memorial Hospital First Floor. Enter through the Main Lobby and follow the signs to Diagnostic Imaging. Please use the computer screen in the waiting area to sign in for your test.

☐ **AAA Screening Test**
The abdominal aorta (a large blood vessel) supplies blood to the pelvis, legs, and other areas of the abdomen. An AAA is a “bulge” in the wall of the aorta. Most patients with AAA have no symptoms; however, if the AAA ruptures, the chance of death is very high. The reason for AAA screening is to find the aneurysm before it gets too big and ruptures. Ultrasound is used to evaluate the aorta for size.

You should have this screening if you have at least one of the following risk factors:
- You are a **male** or **female** and have a family history of abdominal aortic aneurysm.
- You are a **male,** age 65 to 75, who has smoked at least 100 cigarettes in your lifetime and has a family history of abdominal aortic aneurysm.

Licking Memorial
Health Systems

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Certain other risk factors, such as high blood pressure, also may apply beyond the above. Be sure to discuss this test with your doctor.

It is important to note that Medicare will cover this one-time screening ultrasound only if:

- You get a screening referral from your doctor as a result of your "**Welcome to Medicare**" physical exam.
- You receive the physical exam and the screening ultrasound referral (not the ultrasound exam itself) **within the first twelve months** that you have Medicare Part B.

Preparation

Do not eat or drink after 10:00 p.m., on the night before your test. It is best to have a low-fat supper and no carbonated drinks for 24 hours before your test. You may take your regular medications with sips of water. You should wear loose-fitting clothing around your waist. During this test, you will lie on your back to get the best images.

☐ **Abdominal Tests**

Abdominal testing uses ultrasound to review blood flow in the arteries and veins of the kidney, bowel, or liver. This test may be done for high blood pressure, bowel, or liver conditions. During the test, you may need to lie on your side or back to get the best images.

Preparation

Do not eat or drink after 10:00 p.m., on the night before your test. It is best to have a low-fat supper the night before and no carbonated drinks for 24 hours before your test. You may take your medications with small sips of water. You should wear loose-fitting clothing around your waist.

On the Day of the Test

Please leave valuables at home (such as money, credit cards, and checkbooks). The Vascular Lab cannot be responsible for any personal items that are lost during procedures. Be sure to bring medical cards and a photo ID.

Finding Out the Results

The final results of the tests will be ready in 3 to 5 days. You will find out the results of the test from the doctor who ordered it. Please call your doctor's office if you have not received the results within 1 week.

Appointment Reminder

If you have any questions about your test, please call the Vascular Lab at (220) 564-4267.
If you need to cancel your appointment, please call Central Scheduling at (220) 564-4722.

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.