

Getting ready for cardiac catheterization

You are having a cardiac catheterization on _____.

Please arrive at the Heart Investigation Unit (HIU) at _____.

Before your test

- Prepare to be at the hospital most of the day.
- You will not be allowed to drive home after your test.
- Arrange for someone to drive you home after your test.
- Do not eat or drink anything after _____.

The morning of your test

- Take all of your usual medications as prescribed including aspirin (ASA) with a sip of water.
- **If you have diabetes:**
 - Do not take your oral diabetes medications.
 - If you take insulin in the morning, take $\frac{1}{2}$ of your usual long-acting dose the morning of your test. If you take your long-acting insulin at night, take your usual dose.

The day of your test

- Bring all of your medications in their original containers.**
- Bring your Ontario Health Card.
- Wear your glasses, dentures and/or hearing aid(s).
- Bring medical alert and allergy bracelets.
- Bring a cane, walker or CPAP, if you use one.
- Leave all other valuables such as money, jewellery and credit cards at home.
- Bring a pair of slippers with a back and a non-slip sole.
- Bring your personal care items, such as a toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, lotion, deodorant and housecoat in case you stay overnight.
- Go directly to the Heart Investigation Unit (HIU) on the 3rd floor of the main building in the Hamilton General Hospital.

Other information

This test is done with local anesthetic. You may be given a medication to relax you before the procedure. You will stay in recovery for 4 to 6 hours following your test. You will not be able to drive.

If you have an angioplasty, you will need to stay in the hospital for one night. You need to arrange for someone to pick you up the next day at 6:30 in the morning from the HIU.

The HIU is a Regional Cardiac Care Centre for Central South Ontario. It responds to emergency cases on a daily basis. Please be aware that this may delay or change the time of your test.

For more information, go to our website: www.hamiltonhealthsciences.ca Click on “Heart Investigation Unit” on the left side. Then click on “Patient Education” on the left side of the screen.

If you have chest pain or discomfort more often than usual before this test, call your specialist, family doctor or 911 right away.

This information has been approved by:

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