

*If needed, you may be asked to change into a hospital gown.*

## Musculoskeletal Ultrasound

An ultrasound (sonogram) test uses sound waves to project an image. This allows the doctor to view organs and areas within the body. A small hand-held device (transducer) is placed on the skin over the area to be examined. The sound waves from the transducer are reflected off the internal organs back to the transducer. The sound waves create an image on a video screen. The images are seen and captured in real-time, showing movement.

Ultrasound may be used to examine many of the joints in the body including:

- Shoulder
- Elbow
- Wrist
- Hip
- Knee
- Ankle

The exam, done in the Ultrasound department, takes about 45 minutes.

### Before the Test

There is no special preparation for this exam.

On the day of the exam, plan to arrive 15 minutes before your test time. Be sure to bring:

- Your doctor's written order for the test
- Medical insurance card
- Medicare card (Medicare patients only)

Parking is available for patients and visitors in the garage at 222 E. Huron, across from the Feinberg and Galter pavilions. For discounted rates, please bring your parking ticket with you. Tickets can be validated at the Customer Services Desks on the 1st and 2nd floor of the Feinberg and Galter pavilions; 1st floor of Prentice (including the Prentice 24-hour desk near the Superior entrance).

A sonography technologist (tech) will escort you to the exam room. If needed, you may be asked to change into a hospital gown.

## **During the Test**

You will be assisted onto an exam table. A warm gel will be applied to the joint to be imaged. The tech then slowly moves the transducer over that area, using light pressure. The transducer transmits sound waves to a monitor, where the images can be seen and saved for later review.

Before the exam is complete, the radiologist reviews the images. If needed, portions of the exam may be repeated.

## **After the Test**

After the exam, the tech provides towels to help remove the gel.

You may resume your normal diet and activities. The results are sent to your doctor within 5 working days.

## **Health Information Resources**

For more information, visit one of Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Health Learning Centers. These state-of-the-art health libraries are located on the third floor of the Galter Pavilion and on the first floor of the Prentice Women's Hospital. Health information professionals are available to help you find the information you need and provide you with personalized support at no charge. You may contact the Health Learning Centers by calling 312-926-LINK (5465) or by sending an e-mail to [hlc@nmh.org](mailto:hlc@nmh.org).

For additional information about Northwestern Memorial Hospital, please visit our Web site at [www.nmh.org](http://www.nmh.org).

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Developed by: Ultrasound Department

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For more information about Northwestern Memorial Hospital, please visit [www.nmh.org](http://www.nmh.org).

1100-07

900826 (09/07)