What are these tests?

For these tests, we will inject a small amount of radioactive fluid into your arm or hand (about the amount of radiation you would get in an X-ray).

If you are having a **GFR**, we will test your blood to measure the radioactivity. This tells us how well your kidneys are filtering (cleaning) your blood. Please allow 4½ for this test.

If you are having a **renogram** (kidney scan), we take pictures of the kidneys to see how quickly they can remove the radioactive fluid from your body. This tells us how well your kidneys are working. The fluid helps the kidneys show up on our video screen.

There are several types of renograms.

☐ **A basic renogram** checks blood flow and kidney function. After we inject the fluid, we begin taking pictures at once. Pictures will last up to 30 minutes. Please allow one hour for this exam.

☐ **A renogram with Lasix** checks blood flow and kidney function. It also checks for a blocked kidney.

After we inject the fluid, we begin taking pictures at once. Pictures will last up to 45 minutes.

We will inject Lasix about 20 minutes into the test. This medicine increases the amount of urine that flows through the kidneys.

Please allow 90 minutes for this exam.

☐ **A renogram with captopril** checks blood flow and kidney function. It also checks for narrow blood vessels.

You will swallow a medicine called captopril. This helps to open the blood vessels. One hour later, we will inject the radioactive fluid and begin taking pictures. Pictures will last up to 30 minutes. Please allow 90 minutes for this exam.

Before you have this exam, you must stop taking any ACE inhibitors or blood pressure medicine. Please talk to your doctor.

☐ **A renogram with DMSA** checks your kidneys for scarring and infection. We will inject a radioactive fluid. Three hours later, we begin taking pictures. Pictures will last up to 45 minutes. Please allow four hours for this exam.
How do I get ready for this test?

You may take your normal medicines, unless your doctor tells you not to. Please bring a list of your medicines (including vitamins, minerals and over-the-counter drugs).

Adults may eat and drink as usual.

For children:
- Young children may need medicine to help them relax (called sedation). We will tell you in advance if your child needs this medicine. If so, he or she cannot eat or drink before this test. You will need to arrive about 45 minutes early.
- If your child will not be sedated, he or she can eat and drink as normal.
- We may place a catheter (tube) in the bladder. This tube will drain urine from the body.
- A parent or other adult may stay with the child in the exam room.

Please wear comfortable clothes. Leave your valuables at home.

If you are breastfeeding or may be pregnant, tell us before the exam.

What happens during the test?

We will place an IV (tiny needle) in your hand or arm. We inject radioactive fluid through the needle.

- For a GFR: We wait two hours after injecting the fluid. Then, we will take a small sample of blood to measure for radioactivity. We repeat this process every 40 minutes for a total of four blood tests.

- For a renogram: You will lie on an exam table. There will be a camera either above or below this table. As the fluid passes through the kidneys, the camera takes a series of pictures.

For exams with Lasix: After we start taking pictures, we will give you this medicine through your IV.

For exams with captopril: You will swallow this medicine one hour before starting this exam.

What happens after the test?

You may go back to your normal activities. The radioactive fluid will leave your body when you urinate (use the toilet).

If your child was sedated, we will bring him or her to the recovery room. It may take up to 90 minutes before your child is ready to go home. We will give you clear guidelines about how to care for your child at home. Be sure to ask any questions you may have.

Is it safe?

You should have no side effects from the radioactive fluid. If you have concerns about the radiation, talk to your doctor.

When will I know the results?

Your family doctor (or the doctor who ordered the test) will give you the results. They should be ready within five days.

You or your insurer may receive two bills: one from the hospital and one from the radiologist (X-ray doctor).

Who should I call with questions?

Please call the Diagnostic Imaging Department with any questions.