

# Diagnostic Fluoroscopy Patient Information

## Defecogram

Welcome to VCU Health Diagnostic Imaging. We are located in the Main Hospital 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 1200 East Marshall Street. Our hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. Advanced scheduling is required for all diagnostic fluoroscopy exams. Please review the following information about your test. Please call (804) 628-3580 to schedule your test or if you have any questions about your diagnostic fluoroscopy exam.

### What is it?

Imaging of the large colon, rectum and stooling pattern.

### Why are you having this test?

You are having this study to establish presence or absence, nature or extent of disease affecting the rectum. Imaging from defecogram studies can reveal abnormalities related to:

- Rectocele
- Delayed or incomplete rectal emptying
- Protruding rectum

### Preparing for the test

- No bowel prep or food restrictions prior to exam
- Females please bring a tampon
- Bring a picture ID and insurance information
- Please arrive 30 minutes before your appointment time

### What to expect during the test

- This study will take about 2-6 hours
- You will change in to a hospital gown

- An abdominal x-ray will be obtained
- You will drink a cup of contrast media (Barium)
- Abdominal x-ray images will be taken periodically until it reaches the large colon
- Once contrast has reached the large colon, a catheter will be placed in the rectum and contrast will be inserted into the rectum and colon
- Females will be asked to insert a barium coated tampon into the vagina
- You will sit on a seat and be given instructions while you evacuate the contrast during which the radiologist will be taking images with the fluoroscopy x-ray machine

### After Care information

- You may resume normal activity, eating and drinking after exam unless otherwise specified by your physician.
- Unless fluids are restricted by the doctor, the patient should drink fluids (more than normal) to help the contrast move out of their system.

### Contact information if questions or concerns

- Any questions: please contact us at (804) 828-5500 and ask for a radiology technologist. If After hours, please call (804) 828-3699.

### Follow-Up Care after the procedure

- Results will be available 1-2 business days on the patient portal and to your ordering physician.
- For results: please contact the physician that ordered your test

