

Your appointment is at Northfield Hospital Campus

(2000 North Avenue)

Date: _____

Time: _____

Please check in at:

- Women's Health Center
- Hospital Front Desk
- Emergency Department

Diagnostic Imaging is a service of Northfield Hospital + Clinics.

Other Imaging Services include:

- General Radiology (X-ray)
- Computed Tomography (CT)
- PET/CT
- Fluoroscopy
- Diagnostic Ultrasound
- Digital Mammography
- Echocardiography
- Nuclear Medicine
- Bone Densitometry (DEXA)
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

For information:

Diagnostic Imaging

Phone: 507-646-1143

Fax: 507-646-1144

Clinics, Hospital + Specialty Care

Farmington Clinic

4645 Knutsen Drive
Tel: 651-460-2300

Lakeville Clinic + URGENT CARE

9974 – 214th Street W
Tel: 952-469-0500

Lonsdale Clinic

103 15th Avenue SE
Tel: 507-744-3245

Northfield Clinic

2000 North Avenue
Tel: 507-646-1494

Express Care Clinic

706 Division Street
Tel: 507-646-6700

Rehabilitation Clinics

Lakeville:

9913 214th Street W.
Tel: 952-985-2020

Northfield:

1381 Jefferson Road
Tel: 507-646-8800

Women's Health Center

2000 North Avenue
Tel: 507-646-1478

Orthopedic Services

Northfield:

1381 Jefferson Road
Tel: 507-646-8900

Faribault:

1645 Lyndale Ave N #103
Tel: 507-334-1601

Faribault Clinic - ENT

1645 Lyndale Ave N.
Tel: 952-469-0500

Cancer Care & Infusion Center

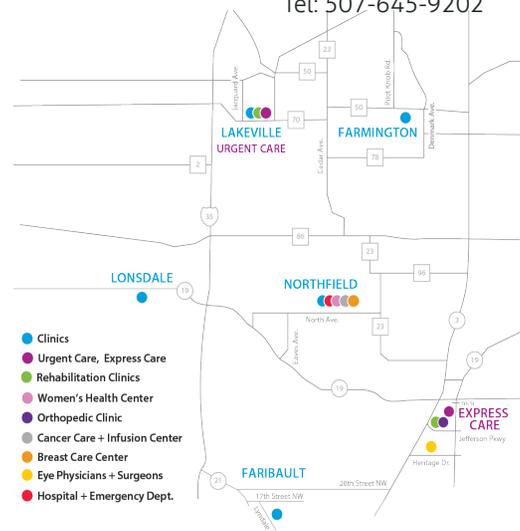
2000 North Avenue
Tel: 507-646-6979

Breast Care Center

2000 North Avenue
Tel: 507-646-1143

Northfield Eye Physicians + Surgeons

2019 Jefferson Road
Tel: 507-645-9202



Echocardiogram

What you need to know about an Echocardiogram

What is an Echocardiogram?

An echocardiogram uses sound waves (ultrasound) to give your provider an image of your heart. These sound waves are harmless and you cannot hear them. The image of your heart allows your provider to determine the size of your heart, how your heart valves are working, and how well your heart is pumping.

An echocardiogram usually is done to detect problems with your heart or blood vessels (such as heart attack, leaking valves, weakened heart, heart defects, blood clots, and other normal or abnormal conditions).

An echocardiogram uses sound waves (ultrasound) to record images of the heart. A transducer (a small device that looks like a microphone) is used to send silent sound waves into your chest. These waves “bounce back” to a receiver, producing a picture of your heart. The different parts of your heart send out different “echoes” that are recorded as pictures.

Preparing for your exam

- You should continue to take prescription medicines on schedule—unless your provider has instructed you differently.
- Your friend or family member is welcome to stay in the waiting room.

What to expect

Your echocardiogram will take approximately one hour.

E.C.G. (ElectroCardioGraphic) patches are placed on your chest. They help the provider interpret your echocardiogram.

Usually you are asked to lie on your back or on your left side. A watery gel is applied to your skin to aid the transmission of the ultrasound waves. A technologist or physician does the exam by firmly placing the transducer on your chest and moving it around to take different pictures of your heart.

During the procedure, the images of your heart are displayed on a screen and recorded on videotape. You will not be able to feel or hear the sound waves during the echocardiogram. However, there may be some discomfort from the pressure of the transducer on your chest. You also may hear sounds as the machine detects blood flow.

There are three forms of echocardiographic pictures:

- **M-mode** echocardiogram is used for measuring the size of the heart.
- **Two-dimensional** (2-D) echocardiogram gives a larger (like a bread slice) picture of the heart.
- **Doppler exam** measures the speed and direction of blood flow within your heart and vessels.

Contrast agent

In some cases, a contrast agent may be used to make the images clearer. The contrast agent is given through a needle placed in a vein (I.V.). Some of the contrast agents may have albumin, which is a protein in the blood. Before you are given the contrast agent, talk with the health-

care provider about any unusual reactions you have had to blood products or to products with human serum albumin. Tell your health-care provider about any allergies you have. If a contrast agent is used, your exam is likely to take longer.

Are there risks?

Echocardiography uses ultrasound, which poses no known risk to the body. There is no X-ray exposure, and no surgical procedures are needed. However, there may be a small risk of a reaction to the contrast agent (if used).

Results

The radiologist will review the images and send a report to your provider in 2 to 3 business days, but can take as long as a week. Your provider will inform you of the results. You may also view your report online through **MyHealth Info** available three business days after the exam has been read by the radiologist.

Scheduling appointments or questions

Please call the Diagnostic Imaging Department Scheduler at 507-646-1143 to schedule or change an appointment, or if you have questions.

**Cardiology services provided by
Minneapolis Heart Institute®.
A service of Allina Health.**