



## **You have been booked to have a TRANSOESOPHAGEAL ECHO at Armadale Hospital**

Your doctor has asked for a transoesophageal echocardiogram. The test usually provides excellent images of the heart, and gives additional information to a standard echo.

**YOU NEED TO PRESENT TO THE DAY PROCEDURE UNIT AT ARMADALE HOSPITAL, HAVING FASTED FOR SIX HOURS.**

NAME:

DATE:

TIME:

### **An echocardiogram is an ultrasound test**

pregnant women. This special type of echocardiogram involves taking images of the heart from behind, from inside the oesophagus.

To do this, you need to be **fasting** for 6 hours prior to the procedure. You will be admitted to the ward for the day because you will be given a sedative. Your throat will be made numb with local anaesthetic spray, and you will be given some medicine to make you sleepy. Under some circumstances, an anaesthetist will be present and give you a full anaesthetic. A probe will be placed in your mouth, which you will swallow, and will rest in your oesophagus. Ultrasound images of your heart will be taken from various places in your oesophagus and stomach. You can usually go home on the same day. **Please ensure someone can drive you home**

Hearts West, we have purchased the latest state-of-the-art echocardiography equipment. All transoesophageal echocardiograms will be performed by Dr David Playford, who is a specialist in the performance and interpretation of ultrasound scans. The procedure is generally very safe, but there are occasional risks you need to be aware of. You will be given sedative medicines and local anaesthetic. If you are allergic or intolerant to any medicines, please tell us prior to the procedure. The probe is flexible but has a firm end, so you may develop a sore throat for a day or two, and there may be some minor bleeding in the back of your throat which should settle quickly. There is a very small (approximately 1 in 10, 000) risk that the probe may damage or rupture your oesophagus. This complication, while rare, is serious and may result in death. Every step is taken, however, to avoid complications. You will be asked to sign a consent form prior to the procedure.

If you have any questions regarding the test, or would like more information please call our office on 9391 1234.