TRANSESOPHAGEAL ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY (TEE)
This booklet contains general information which cannot be construed as specific advice to an individual patient. All statements in the booklet must be interpreted by your personal physician/therapist who has the knowledge of the stage and/or extent of your particular medical condition.
Transesophageal echocardiography will enable a physician to inspect (visualize) cardiac structures using an ultrasound transducer fitted at the end of a flexible tube (endoscopy or probe) passed through the mouth into the esophagus and stomach.
WHY THIS TEST?
Transesophageal echocardiography (TEE) can visualize certain cardiac structures not seen by standard echocardiography.

HOW TEE WORKS
The transesophageal echocardiography probe is an optical instrument composed of a flexible bundle of fibres that transmit ultrasound images back to the viewer.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO
- You must fast (not eat or drink) for 4 – 6 hours prior to the procedure.
- You are allowed to take bedtime medications. For early morning medications, take with a small sip of water.
- Arrange for someone to accompany you to and from the Unit.
- Do not drive yourself home from the Hospital after the procedure.
- Do not bring valuables (money, jewellery, etc.). The Ottawa General Hospital does not assume any responsibility for lost or stolen articles.
- If you have a blue plastic card from the Hospital and the information on it is correct or if your card contains incorrect information bring it with you to the Unit. If you do not have a plastic blue card from the hospital, present yourself at least 20 minutes before your appointment to Registration (located on the 2nd floor) with:
  - Social Insurance Number
  - Health Insurance Card (OHIP, Que. Ins.)
DIRECTION TO THE UNIT
- Take the escalator or the elevator to the second floor and proceed to Module R where the Unit is located.

UPON ARRIVAL
- You will provide your name and identity card to the secretary who will open a chart.
- The echo technologist will ask you to sign a consent form outlining the test to be performed.

TELL THE PHYSICIAN IF:
- you are allergic to medications and/or xylocaine;
- you take medication(s) (make a list at the back of this page and bring it with you);
- you have stomach or lung or swallowing problems;
- you are diabetic;
- you are pregnant.

WHAT SHOULD YOU EXPECT FROM THE PROCEDURE?
- An echo technologist will be with you throughout the test; he/she will give you a gown to wear and will ask you to lie down on the stretcher.
- An intravenous (IV) catheter will be inserted so that IV sedation may be given.
- Your throat will be frozen with a spray (medicinal taste).
- The physician will then ask you to swallow the probe which is smaller than most food you swallow.
- It is uncomfortable but not painful, and you can breathe normally.
HOW LONG?
• TEE lasts 10 – 20 minutes.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PROCEDURE?
• Some results are available right away, others take longer.
• The results will be sent to your own physician.
• Instructions as to when you can resume eating/drinking will be given by the echo technologist (usually after 1 hour).

SPECIAL NOTE
• Complications are rare.
• You may have a sore throat.

APPOINTMENT
You have been scheduled on __________ at __________.
My allergies are: _______________________________________

List of medication(s): ___________________________________  

If unable to attend please call us at 737-8255
Module R (2nd Floor)

This booklet was prepared in joint collaboration with the cardiopulmonary staff and physicians.