

## EKG, ECG (ELECTROCARDIOGRAM)

The EKG, also called an ECG or electrocardiogram (ee-lek-tro-CAR-dee-o-gram), is a simple and painless test that records the changes in the electrical activity of the heart.

### BEFORE THE EKG

\*Please do not use baby oil or lotion on the day of the test.\*

You or the technician will remove your child's pajama top or shirt. Girls may be asked to wear a hospital gown.

### HOW THE TEST IS DONE

Your child will lie on an exam table. A very young child may prefer to sit on your lap. The EKG technician will place ten stickers (electrodes) on your child's chest and stomach area.

Then a plastic-covered wire (a lead wire) will be connected to each sticker. Your child may cover up with a sheet after the stickers are in place. The stickers and wires do not hurt and will be removed at the end of the test.

After the wires are connected, your child must lie still for 10 to 20 seconds while the machine records the heartbeats. The machine then prints a picture, called a *tracing*, on a piece of paper. This paper is removed from the machine and is given to the cardiologist.

The whole test takes only about 5 minutes if your child stays very still. The test does not hurt and there are **no lasting effects** when the test is over. (There may be a little bit of redness from the stickers. It will go away in a few hours.)

### AFTER THE TEST

The cardiologist will read the tracing from the machine. The results of the EKG will be sent to your child's primary care doctor within 3 to 5 days.

If you need to change your appointment or if you have any questions, please call the EKG office at (614) 722-5561.

### For Outpatient Use Only

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_

#### APPOINTMENT:

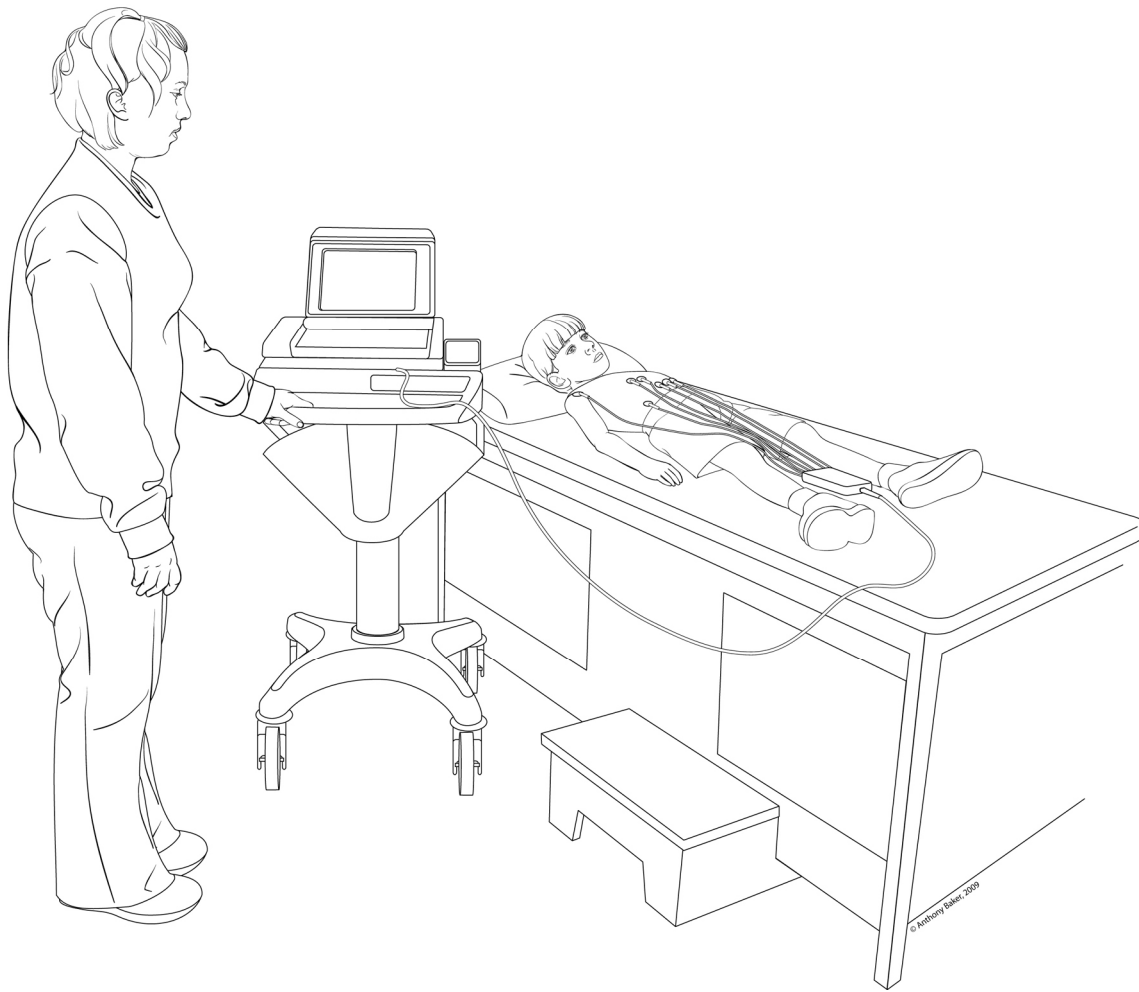
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Please bring the prescription for the test to:

Main Campus of Nationwide Children's Hospital, Non-Invasive Cardiology, Second Floor, Main Tower Building.

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please come 15 minutes early to allow time to register.



**Picture 1** Having an EKG.