You are scheduled for an Angiogram on ________________ at ________________.

Please report to TC100 in Mitchell Hospital 30 minutes before your appointment time to register for the test.

Angiogram/Arteriogram
An angiogram, or arteriogram, is an X-ray that uses an injection of dye (contrast) to examine the blood vessels of the head, neck, arms, legs, or other organs of the body. These tests are used to identify the area and extent of any artery blockage or narrowing. The contrast solution allows the blood vessels to be seen more clearly. The procedure usually involves only mild discomfort and takes between 1 and 2 hours to complete.

Before the Test
Do not eat solid food for at least 6 hours before the test.

Labs are needed before the procedure to find out if your blood clotting factors and renal function are normal. Your doctor will order the labs and give you instructions about the labs that are needed. A nurse from Interventional Radiology will call you a few days before the procedure to review preparation instructions with you.

Preparation
Please leave all valuable items at home. When you arrive in Radiology you will be escorted to the Nurse Holding Room. Two of your family members are allowed to come to the Holding Room with you. You will be asked to change into a hospital gown. You will be assigned a holding bay and be given a blanket to keep you warm.

While in the Holding Room, you will be asked to empty your bladder. The nurse will check your temperature, pulse, respiration, blood pressure and answer any questions. An IV (into the vein) line will be started before the test. Also, a brief history and physical may be performed by an advanced practice nurse (APN) or radiologist.

Next, the radiologist or APN will explain the test and discuss the risks involved. After the radiologist or APN has answered your questions, you will be asked to give your written consent for the procedure.

Procedure
When you are taken to the procedure room your family or visitors will be asked to leave the Holding Room. They will be given a pager that works anywhere on campus. They will have the option to wait in the waiting area where you were registered or they can travel around campus.

You will be taken to a procedure room and will be assisted onto an x-ray table that is very firm. The radiologist/nurse may give you some medicine through your IV to help you relax. The medication might make you feel drowsy, but some patients are awake and usually comfortable during the test.

The doctor will select the site to puncture the skin. The femoral artery in your groin is most often used. Both groins will be shaved and cleansed with a special soap that may feel cold. A local
anesthetic (similar to novocaine) will be used to numb the area selected. When it is numb, a puncture will be made and the doctor will insert a catheter. This catheter is a long, thin, flexible tube that can be guided to a certain position. The catheter placement is not usually painful. You may feel pressure and mild discomfort at the puncture site. If needed, added injections of local anesthetic will be given at your request.

Next, the catheter is placed in the proper position and contrast is injected into the catheter and carried through the blood vessels. As the contrast is injected, you may feel a sudden warm or hot sensation. This will only last a few seconds. After the contrast solution is injected, a series of x-rays will be taken. When all x-rays have been taken, the catheter will be removed. Firm pressure will be placed over the puncture site for at least 10 to 15 minutes. This completes the test.

After the Test
You are to remain still for at least 6 hours. During this period, you must use a urinal or bedpan. It is very important to keep the leg that was punctured straight. If the femoral artery in the groin was used, you will need to lay flat in bed. The nurse will check your blood pressure, temperature and pulse, and the puncture site, frequently.

An ice pack may be placed over the site to prevent swelling and relieve discomfort. The pulse in the leg or arm used for the test will be checked and compared to your other leg or arm that was not used for the test.

You may keep the IV until you are discharged. This will help to flush out the contrast used during the test. Notify the nurse immediately if you should notice any of the following symptoms:

- Swelling at the puncture site
- Bleeding or bruising at the puncture site
- Numbness, tingling, pain or any change in normal sensation in your arm or leg
- Difficulty moving your fingers, hands, feet or legs
- Coolness of the hand or foot
- Changes in vision
- Difficulty speaking or slurred speech

You will be given further instructions when you are discharged from Interventional Radiology.