You are scheduled for a CT exam on ________________ at __________________. 

What is Computed Tomography (CT)?
Computed tomography (CT) is a technique for creating pictures of the body. A CT exam is performed by a technologist who is trained in the use of CT equipment. All of our technologists are certified in the specialty of CT. Before the test begins, the technologist will explain the test and the equipment used.

Radiation Exposure
The Department of Pediatric Radiology at the University of Chicago Medical Center follows guidelines set forth by the Joint Task Force on Adult Radiation Protection to produce the highest quality images while using the lowest radiation dose possible. The Joint Task Force collaborated with the American Association of Physicists in Medicine and the American Society of Radiologic Technologists to create the Image Wisely campaign. For more information please visit the Image Wisely™ website at imagewisely.org.

Oral Preparation
Your test requires a liquid contrast agent. This oral contrast agent outlines the stomach and bowel on the pictures and will make certain parts of your body appear bright on the pictures. It is important to drink the contrast over a 1 hour period. A technologist will provide you with a container of contrast and a cup. You should drink one cup every 20 minutes. If you experience any stomach disturbance or diarrhea, please tell the technologist.

How is the test performed?
Please leave any loose or hanging jewelry, such as necklaces at home. It is not usually necessary to remove rings or watches.

The technologist will help you lie down and get comfortable on the scanning table. You will be moved smoothly inside the scanner on a motorized tabletop. An audio system makes it possible for you to talk to the technologist during the exam. The technologist can see and hear you at all times.

During the exam it is important that you lay perfectly still since even slight movement can make the images blurry. You will not feel anything unusual or painful during the exam. The technologist may ask you to hold your breath several times during the test.

Another contrast agent is needed for your scan. This is injected into your vein through an intravenous (IV) line. This line will be started before you go to CT. As it is injected, you may feel warm and flushed or feel the urge to urinate. You may also note a metallic taste in your mouth. These are normal effects, although most people will feel nothing at all. Please tell the staff immediately if you feel any of the following:

- Shortness of breath
- Hives
- Itching

After the Test
You may resume your normal activities and diet after the test. Please drink an additional 1 to 2 glasses of water after the test. The contrast agent will not discolor your urine. Although it is rare to experience any delayed allergic reactions, contact your doctor if any rash or swelling occurs. The results of the test will be sent to your doctor in 24 to 48 hours. If you have any questions about the procedure, please call the CT department at 773-702-9101.