You are scheduled for a PET exam on ___________________________ at ______________________

What is PET?
Positron Emission Tomography (PET) is a technique for creating pictures of the body. A PET exam is performed by a technologist who is trained in the use of PET equipment. All of our technologists are certified. Before the test begins, the technologist will explain the test to you.

Where is PET?
The PET Imaging Center is located in the Duchossis Center for Advanced Medicine (DCAM). The DCAM is located at 5758 S. Maryland Avenue. The main entrance is on 58th Street and Maryland Avenue at the circular driveway. Arrive at least 30 minutes before your appointment to allow time to park and register. Valet parking is highly recommended. You may leave your car with the attendant on the circular drive in front of the DCAM from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. For 24-hour automated phone directions, call (773) 702-5580.

Preparing for the test.
By reviewing this preparation checklist and following the instructions, you can help make your experience pleasant and efficient.

- You should have nothing to eat starting 4 hours before the test. This restriction includes food, chewing gum, mints, lifesavers, and any beverages with the exception of plain tap water.
- If possible, please drink 2 – 3 glasses of plain tap water during the 4 hours before the test.
- If you are diabetic and take oral medications, you may take them normally with plain tap water. If you take insulin, you can take long-acting insulin but should not take short-acting “regular” insulin for at least 4 hours before the test. If your sugar levels vary significantly throughout the day (> 200mg/dl), call before your appointment so that we may optimize the timing and preparation for your PET scan.
- Other medications may be taken normally with plain tap water, but inform the technologist of any medications you take before the test.
- Be prepared to spend approximately 3 hours in the PET Imaging Center for completion of your scan.
- Ensure that you are on time for your appointment. The imaging agent may be used only for a very short period of time after your scheduled appointment time.
- If you are claustrophobic and take medication to control anxiety, please bring this medication with you. We are not able to provide you with medication.
- If you have had a previous CT or MRI scan at another hospital or imaging center, please bring the films/CD of the study with you on the day of your PET scan. Our physicians need to compare these scans to the PET scan as a routine part of the interpretation of the study.

How is the test performed?
The technologist will give you an injection of the PET imaging agent. The agent will have to circulate for 60 - 90 minutes before the scan is started. Once injected, you will remain in the prep room until it is time for the scan and the technologist will make you as comfortable as possible.

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.

If you have to cancel or reschedule your test:
Please contact us as soon as possible at 773-702-6161.

After the Test
You may resume your normal activities and diet after the test.