Your child is scheduled for an Upper Gastrointestinal Series (UGI) on ____________ at _________.

Please report to Comer Children’s Hospital room 1A 20 minutes before your appointment time to register for the test.

WHAT IS AN UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL (UGI) SERIES?
An upper GI is an x-ray examination of the esophagus, stomach, and first part of the small intestine. This exam is performed with a special type of x-ray machine called fluoroscopy and contrast material given by mouth called barium. Fluoroscopy makes it possible to see the inside of the body moving. Contrast is a special liquid that is used to make certain parts of your child’s body visible on the x-rays. Children usually drink the barium contrast without any objection. However, if your child will not drink the contrast, the radiologist may need to pass a small tube from the nose into the stomach to complete the examination.

RADIATION EXPOSURE
The Department of Pediatric Radiology at the University of Chicago Medical Center follows guidelines set forth by The Society for Pediatric Radiology and The Alliance for Radiation Safety in Pediatric Imaging to produce the highest quality images while using the lowest radiation dose possible. For more information please visit the Image Gently® website at imagegently.org.

PREPARATION FOR THE TEST
Avoid dressing your child in clothing that may contain metal objects such as snaps and zippers. An older child may be asked to wear a gown, remove jewelry, and eye glasses. Please follow the guidelines below:

♦ Newborn – four months: nothing by mouth (NPO) for 2-3 hours before the exam.
♦ Five months – one year: nothing by mouth (NPO) for 4 hours before the exam.
♦ Two years – eleven years: nothing by mouth (NPO) for 6 hours before the exam.
♦ Twelve years and over: nothing by mouth (NPO) after midnight

DURING THE TEST
A technologist will confirm your child’s identity, the test to be performed and ask if your child has any allergies. A parent is allowed to remain in the room to comfort the child but will need to wear a lead apron. Since radiation is used, other children and pregnant individuals cannot be allowed in the x-ray room.

The technologist will position your child on the x-ray table. Sometimes it is necessary to wrap young children in a blanket or other positioning devices to help keep your child still. The technologist will take an x-ray of the abdomen. The technologist will make you and your child as comfortable as possible during the exam. The radiologist will use fluoroscopy to evaluate the esophagus, stomach, and first part of the small bowel while your child drinks barium. When your child is done drinking, the radiologist will use fluoroscopy to check to see if acid reflux is present.

An upper GI is usually completed in about 30 - 45 minutes.

AFTER THE TEST
After the exam, your child can resume a regular diet. You or your child may notice a white residue in the stool in the next 48-72 hours. This is normal. Increasing fluids after the test will help the contrast leave the bowel more quickly. If your child is unable to have a bowel movement or experiences significant changes in bowel habits following the exam, please contact your physician. The results of the upper gi will be sent to your doctor in 24 to 48 hours. If you have any questions about the procedure, please call the Pediatric Radiology department at 773-702-6600.