Your child is scheduled for a voiding cystourethrogram (VCUG) on _______________ at _________.

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

WHAT IS A VCUG?
A VCUG is an x-ray exam of the bladder and the lower urinary tract that uses contrast and a special form of x-ray called fluoroscopy. 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.

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 remove jewelry and eye glasses. Your child will be given a gown and asked to undress from the waist down.

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. A nurse will then clean and prepare the genital area to insert a catheter into the bladder. Your child may experience discomfort when the catheter is inserted. The catheter is connected to a tube and a bottle of contrast. Then the bladder will be filled with contrast. When the bladder is completely filled, your child will urinate. The radiologist uses fluoroscopy to monitor bladder filling and urination. Your child must hold very still for a few seconds while the fluoroscopy is taking place. This helps to make sure the images are clear. The catheter will be removed after the radiologist reviews and approves the images.

A VCUG is usually completed in about 30 - 45 minutes.

AFTER THE TEST
You will be given a towel to clean your child’s genital area. Your child may experience irritation during urination for 24 hours after the test, but that is normal. The results of the VCUG 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.