You are scheduled for a lymphoscintigraphy of the breast on __________ at ________.

Please report to TC100 in Mitchell Hospital 20 minutes before your appointment time to register for the test.

ABOUT THE TEST
Lymphoscintigraphy of the breast is used to find out if there is lymph node involvement associated with your diagnosis. The test includes an injection of a radioactive tracer. The amount of radiation used in this test is very small, and well within limits that are safe. You will be at the medical center between 1 and 3 hours.

NOTE: Patients who are pregnant or may be pregnant should consult their physician before having this test.

PREPARATION FOR THE TEST
There is no special preparation for the test. However, you may be asked to apply a small amount of cream to numb the area of interest before the test. Your doctor will give you the cream and instructions.

DURING THE TEST
When you arrive in the Nuclear Medicine Department, a technologist will confirm your identity and ask you questions about your medical history. The technologist will explain the test to you and answer any questions you have. A radiologist will review your medical history with you before performing the test. The radiologist will inject a small amount of a radioactive tracer just below the skin around the nipple of the affected breast. The tracer will migrate through the lymphatic system and localize in draining lymph nodes. The first lymph node identified is referred to as the “sentinel node.” Localization times vary and the procedure may take longer than expected if migration is slow. You may be asked to move your arm on the affected side in a circular motion or walk around the department for a short period of time to aid the migration of the tracer. After the sentinel node is identified images of the area will be taken. You will lie down on an imaging table and the technologist will position a special camera over the area. The images will take about 5 to 10 minutes. The radiologist will return to mark the location of the node on your skin with a magic marker. The radiologist will answer any final questions you have and remind you to follow the instructions you received for surgery. He/she will also explain to wash the affected area gently being careful not to remove the mark that he/she made on your skin.

AFTER THE TEST
If your surgery is not immediately after the test, do not to remove the mark that the physician made on your skin during the test. Drink plenty of water. A Nuclear Medicine physician will interpret the exam and the results will be sent to the ordering physician. If you have any questions about the procedure or cannot keep the appointment, please call Nuclear Medicine at 773-702-9735.