You are scheduled for an Intraoperative Lymphoscintigraphy on ___________ at ___________.

ABOUT THE TEST
An Intraoperative 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 just before your surgery. The amount of radiation used in this test is very small, and well within limits that are safe. The test usually takes about 1 hour in addition to your surgery.

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, it is important that you follow all of the instructions you have been given for your surgery.

DURING THE TEST
When you arrive in the Ambulatory Surgery Department, a coordinator will confirm your identity and register you for your surgery. After you have been prepared for surgery the surgeon 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. After the sentinel node is identified the surgeon will use a special probe to identify the area. The surgeon will mark the location of the node on your skin with a magic marker. The surgeon will then proceed to remove the affected lymph node(s).

AFTER THE TEST
Drink plenty of water. You should follow all of the instructions given to you by the surgical team. If you have any questions about the test or cannot keep the appointment, please call your doctor’s office.