You are scheduled for a White Blood Cell Scan on _____________ at ______________.

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

ABOUT THE TEST
A White Blood Cell Scan is used to look for infection. A small sample of your blood will be taken, labeled with a radioactive tracer, and injected back into you. The amount of radioactivity is small and well within limits that are safe. This is a two day test. You will be at the medical center about 4-5 hours the first day for blood labeling and 2-3 hours the second day for imaging.

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

PREPARATION FOR THE TEST
There is no preparation required for this test.

HOW IS THE TEST PERFORMED?
Day 1
When you arrive in the Nuclear Medicine Department, a technologist will confirm your identity and ask you questions about your medical history. He/she will explain the test to you and answer any questions you may have. The technologist will start an intravenous line (IV) in your hand or arm and withdraw a small amount of blood. He/She will put an identification (ID) band on your wrist that matches the label on the syringe used to collect your blood. The technologist will send the blood sample to a special pharmacy that will label your white blood cells with a radioactive tracer. The technologist will ask you to return to the Nuclear Medicine Department in about 3 hours. When you return to the department the technologist will confirm that the label on the syringe matches your ID band and inject the tracer through the IV line. The technologist will remove the IV line and ask you to return to the Nuclear Medicine Department the next day for imaging. It takes 24 hours for your body to absorb the tracer. There are no side effects from the injection.

Day 2
The technologist will ask you to lie down on an imaging table under a special camera and pictures of your entire body (head to toe) will be taken. The camera moves slowly over your body as you lie on the imaging table. It is important that you lay very still while the images are being taken. A nuclear medicine doctor will review the pictures and may order additional images. If additional images are needed, do not be alarmed. They are a routine part of the test.

AFTER THE TEST
You may resume your normal activities and diet after the test. 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 the Nuclear Medicine scheduling staff at 773-795-9723.