You are scheduled for a Seed Placement on ______________________ at ______________.

Please report to the Breast Center in DCAM 2B 20 minutes before your appointment time to register for the test.

ABOUT THE TEST
Your surgeon has ordered a seed placement to mark the location of a lesion in your breast. This is done by placing a small metal “seed” that contains a tiny amount of radioactive material into the area of the breast lesion before surgery. This technique allows more precise surgery.

If lymphoscintigraphy is also being performed on the same day as the seed placement, the radioactive seed should be placed first. The technologist will arrange for transport to nuclear medicine for injection of Tc-99m.

NOTE: If you are pregnant or may be pregnant, please tell your primary care physician.

PREPARATION FOR THE TEST
On the day of the test do not use any deodorant, talcum powder, lotion or perfume on the breast, chest area or underarms. Please wear a two-piece outfit if possible.

RADIATION SAFETY
The metal seed is a sealed source of radioactivity. This means all the radioactive material is contained inside the metal outer layer. The radioactive material cannot be spread from contact with the seed and it is about the size of a thin sesame seed. It remains in the breast until surgery, and is removed with the breast tissue when you have the surgery. You cannot spread radioactive material or contaminate things you touch, or people you interact with, and your clothing will not become radioactively contaminated.

While the seed is in the breast anyone that is in prolonged close physical contact with you may be exposed to very small amounts of radiation. Radioactive material emits radiation even though it is enclosed in metal and this is how we detect or find the seed during your procedure. The small amount of radiation used in this procedure demonstrates no evidence of harm to you or other individuals you come in to contact with.

DURING THE TEST
When you arrive in the department, you will need to complete the registration process. A technologist or nurse will confirm your identity using two identifiers and will escort you to the dressing area to change. You will need to remove everything from the waist up and put on a hospital gown. A technologist or nurse will then escort you to a procedure room.

A technologist may need to take preliminary mammographic images before the procedure. She will then escort you to the procedure room. The radiologist will explain the procedure to you and obtain your consent to perform the procedure. The radiologist and the nurse or technologist will conduct a timeout to verify the correct site and procedure to be performed. The target site will be cleansed and the radiologist will inject a small amount of a numbing agent. Using imaging guidance the radiologist will place a seed into the site with a needle. A technologist will then take more mammographic images to confirm the location of the seed.
The radiologist or nurse will attach a GREEN wrist band to your arm after seed placement. The wristband will be placed on the wrist on the same side of the body as the seed placement. The wrist band will indicate the following:
   a. “Do Not Remove”
   b. Your name and medical record number
   c. Number of seeds implanted
   d. Location of seed(s)
   e. Surgery date
The wristband must remain on your wrist and should not be removed by anyone other than your surgeon at the completion of your surgery.

You will be discharged and given post procedure instructions and nurse contact information.

The entire test will take approximately 30 minutes.

**AFTER THE TEST**
You may resume your normal activities and diet after the test. The radiologist will interpret your exam and provide a report to your doctor within 24 hours. If you have any questions about the procedure or cannot keep the appointment, please contact the Department of Radiology at 773-702-6161.