Your child is scheduled for a small bowel follow through 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 SMALL BOWEL FOLLOW THROUGH (SBFT)?
A SBFT is an x-ray of the small intestine (bowel). This exam is performed with a special x-ray machine called fluoroscopy and a contrast material called barium. 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. Your child will drink contrast from a straw, sippy cup, or bottle. Children usually drink the contrast without a problem. However, if your child will not drink the contrast, the radiologist may need to pass a small tube from the nose into the stomach to complete the test.

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. Replace metal diaper pins with adhesive tape. An older child may be asked to wear a gown, remove jewelry, and eye glasses. Please follow the guidelines below:

♦ Newborn – four months: nothing by mouth (NPO) for 2-3 hours before the examination.
♦ Five months – one year: nothing by mouth (NPO) for 4 hours before the examination.
♦ Two years – eleven years: nothing by mouth (NPO) for 6 hours before the examination.
♦ Twelve years and over: nothing by mouth (NPO) after midnight

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 the child still. The technologist will make you and your child as comfortable as possible during the exam. The technologist will take an x-ray of the abdomen. Then your child will be given contrast to drink. Ten minutes after drinking the contrast the technologist will take another x-ray. Your child will then be asked to walk around. This will help the contrast move through your child’s body more quickly. The radiologist will review the images and decide if more x-rays are needed.

A SBFT can take to 3 hours or longer because the contrast has to travel through the bowel.

AFTER THE TEST
After the test, your child can resume a regular diet and activities. You or your child may notice a white residue in the stool for the next 48-72 hours. This is normal. Increasing fluids after the test will help the contrast leave the bowel more quickly. If your child is unable to have a bowel movement or experiences significant changes in bowel habits following the exam, please contact your physician. The results of the test 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.