

# X-Ray:

## Pratt Regional Medical Center

### What you can expect:

#### **During the X-ray**

During an x-ray exam a technologist positions your body to obtain the necessary views. He or she may use pillows or sandbags to help you hold the position needed for the exam being performed. During the x-ray exposure you remain still and sometimes hold your breath to avoid moving so that there is no motion on the image. The x-ray machine produces a safe level of radiation that passes through your body and records an image on a specialized plate. You can't feel an x-ray.

An x-ray may take a few minutes depending on the number of exams your physician ordered.

#### **Your child's x-ray**

If a young child is having an x-ray, techniques may be used to keep him or her still. These won't harm your child and will prevent the need for a repeat procedure, which may be necessary if the child moves during the x-ray exposure.

You may be allowed to remain with your child during the test. If you remain in the room during the x-ray exposure, you'll likely be asked to wear a lead apron to shield you from unnecessary exposure.

#### **X-ray during pregnancy**

Before getting an x-ray, be sure that your physician is aware of your pregnancy. You can then discuss the benefits and risks of the x-ray. Make sure to inform the technologist that you are pregnant as well. They will do their best to shield and limit the amount of radiation.

#### **Fluoroscopy Procedure**

Fluoroscopy is an imaging test that uses x-rays to make "real time" moving pictures of the body. A radiologist will be present during the exam and he or she will evaluate the images on the screen.

Certain exams may require contrast medium such as barium.

Depending on the exam, you may be given special instructions prior to your exam.

Some exams require needles. This will be discussed with you prior to the exam. You will be required to sign a written consent prior to the start of the exam.



**After the X-ray**

After an x-ray, you generally can resume normal activities. Routine x-rays usually have no side effects.

Since each exam varies the technologist will give you specific post instructions for your particular test.