## UNITED HOSPITAL CENTER PATIENT EDUCATION

## **HYSTEROSALPINGOGRAM**



Your physician has referred you to the Diagnostic Services Department at United Hospital Center for a Hysterosalpingogram. This is an x-ray examination of the uterus and fallopian tubes and will be performed by a Radiologist or your Obstetrician-Gynecologist.

After arriving in the Diagnostic Imaging Department, you will be asked to sign a consent form. You will then be placed on a radiographic table in a position similar to when you have a pap smear performed. The Radiologist or Obstetrician-Gynecologist will then begin the exam by placing a plastic tube through the vagina into the cervix. Once this tube is in place, contrast medium (x-ray dye) is injected to fill the uterus and cervical canal. After the injection is completed, the study will be recorded on x-ray film. After the procedure is completed, a small amount of bleeding sometimes occurs. Menstrual-like cramps are sometimes experienced during the procedure.

Although there are risks involved with this procedure, such as, infection, ruptured uterus, and/or reaction to the contrast medium, your physician feels the benefits of the procedure outweigh the risks and would aid in the diagnosis of your medical condition.

Hysterosalpingograms are performed on the 10th day following the start of your menstrual cycle. After being scheduled for this exam, you should refrain from having sexual intercourse. This is necessary to prevent accidental x-ray exposure to an unborn fetus.

After the procedure, you may experience some discomfort, so have a friend or family member transport you home.

**LENGTH:** Approximately 45 minutes

If you are pregnant, or think you might be, tell your doctor and the technologist **BEFORE** your exam.

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