

Patient's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

**THORACENTESIS  
Ultrasound****Diagnostic Imaging Department  
222 Medical Circle  
Morehead, KY 40351  
Office: 606-783-6761  
Fax: 606-783-6935****Patients:**  
These are the instructions for your  
scheduled procedure in our  
Diagnostic Imaging Department.**Scheduling**

Your examination has been scheduled for:

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time:** \_\_\_\_\_ **A.M./P.M.**

The above time has been reserved for you. Please arrive 1 hour before the appointed time so you can register. When you arrive to register, please follow the guidelines below to know where to sign in:

Admitting/Registration - 6:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.  
Emergency Room Registration - 11:00 p.m. to 6:30 a.m.**Purpose**

A thoracentesis is a procedure where fluid around the lung is drained out through a catheter inserted into the back.

**Preparation**

None

**\*\*You will need to have someone drive you home after this procedure, therefore make arrangements to have someone accompany you to the hospital****Procedure**

- Once you have registered, you will be directed to Diagnostic Imaging.
- You will be asked to put on a hospital gown and the Ultrasonographer will position you on the table.
- An ultrasound will be performed to localize the fluid.
- The radiologist will mark the skin over where the fluid is located.
- The skin will be cleaned with betadine or alcohol
- The physician injects the site with numbing medicine, called lidocaine. This may sting for a second.
- A sterile drape will be placed around the area.
- When the site is numb, the physician inserts catheter into the back and fluid area.
- The fluid will be drained into a vacuum container. When the fluid is finished draining, the catheter will be removed.
- A chest x-ray may be performed after the procedure.

**Post Procedure**

There is no special care needed after the procedure.

**Results**

The radiologist will review your exam and send a written report to your physician. You will have to contact your physician for the results. Your physician will discuss the results with you as appropriate. The technologist will be unable to give you any information or interpretation about the results of your exam.

If you have questions concerning your upcoming procedure, please call the Diagnostic Imaging Department at 606-783-6761.