Patient Prep & Instruction Manual
Scheduled Test: Myelogram and CAT Scan

Appointment Date: _____________   Time: _____________

Where:
Report to the Admissions Department on 1 Silverstein one hour prior to your scheduled appointment. From there you will be sent to the Radiology reception area on the Ground Floor of the Dulles building.

What is a myelogram?
Myelography is an effective imaging technique used to take high quality pictures of your spinal canal and nerve roots.

Preparation:
Do not eat anything after midnight the night before your procedure. We want you to be well hydrated so you may drink clear fluids only up to the morning of your myelogram. Be sure to tell the doctor about any allergies you may have, especially to radiology contrast. Please bring any imaging studies you may have at home with you to the Radiology Department when you come for your procedure. These include MRI’s, CT scans and plain spine x-rays. Some medications you may be on must be stopped prior to your myelogram so it is very important that you inform your doctor all the medications that you are taking.

Procedure:
The injection of contrast part of the procedure takes about an hour. When you get to the Radiology Department, a Radiologist will go over the consent form with you and answer any questions you may have. Your back will be cleaned with a special soap and then you will be given some numbing medicine. X-ray contrast is then injected to outline your spinal canal and x-rays are taken while tilting the table and changing your position. The procedure is followed by a CT scan which provides more information for your doctor. You will remain in the department for a 2 hour observation period following the CT scan.
Post Procedure:

You must have someone come along to drive you home since you may not drive home yourself. You also have that individual stay with you following the procedure.

We recommend that you relax at home for the 24 hours following the procedure and that you do not drive yourself for 24 hours following the procedure. Some patients will experience a headache 24 - 48 hours after the procedure. Drinking plenty of water following the procedure may help avoid this occurrence. If you develop a severe headache, experience a seizure or increasing confusion within 24 to 48 hours following the procedure please call 215-662-3064 to speak with the Neuroradiology fellow during the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. If any of these events develop after normal business hours call the operator and ask for the Neuroradiology fellow on call.

You should also call if you experience fevers, chills, worsening back pain, or redness at the site of the needle placement.

Please feel free to call (215) 662-3015 to speak with a technologist if you have any questions about this exam.