Welcome to Barnes-Jewish West County Hospital Radiology. Your physician has scheduled you for a GI/GU exam in Radiology. GI (Gastrointestinal) exams are x-rays of the upper and lower digestive system. The upper GI looks at the esophagus and stomach. The small bowel series looks at the small intestine. The barium enema looks at the colon. GU (Genitourinary) exams are x-rays of the urinary tract system (kidney, ureter and bladder).

SCHEDULING
- GI/GU appointments are scheduled M-F from 7:30 am to 2:00 pm. Exams are by appointment only and are scheduled by your referring physician.
- Please make sure to pre-register prior to your arrival. To pre-register or to reschedule your GI/GU exam, please call Radiology Scheduling at 314-996-8080, M-F from 7:00 am to 5:30 pm.

YOUR ARRIVAL
- Please arrive 15 minutes prior to your appointment to allow for registration time.
- Please bring a photo ID (driver’s license or state ID), and insurance card(s) with you to your exam. Forms can be found at www.barnesjewishwestcounty.org/radiology.

PRIOR TO YOUR EXAM
- Take your medication as you normally do, unless your referring physician has told you otherwise.
- For an upper GI, small bowel series, or barium swallow exam you should not smoke, eat, or drink after midnight prior to your appointment.
- For a barium enema, you will need to purchase a “prep kit.” Your referring physician’s office will give you preparation instructions for your exam.
- Some GI/GU exams require a contrast to make parts of your body display more clearly. For small bowel series and barium enema exams, barium or a water soluble agent is used as the contrast. For GU exams, a contrast is generally administered through a catheter.

LENGTH OF EXAM
Exams typically take 45 minutes or less, but may vary depending on the exam. From start to finish, please allow at least 1 hour for your entire GI appointment and 1½ hours for a GU appointment. Note: Small bowl exams can take up to 4 hours.

AFTER YOUR EXAM
- All radiology exams are read by a physician known as a Radiologist. The radiologists at Barnes-Jewish West County Hospital are all specialized experts in their field.
- The radiologist will report your GI/GU results to your referring physician within 24 hours. Your referring physician’s office will discuss the results with you.
- For any exam using barium, drink plenty of fluids for the next 48 hours.

QUESTIONS
Visit our website at www.barnesjewishwestcounty.org/radiology or call the Radiology Department at 314-996-8496.