

Imaging test to be performed:

## Thoracentesis



Patient's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Test date: \_\_\_\_\_

Test time: \_\_\_\_\_

*See other side for test location and registration instructions*

What You Need To Know

### How to prepare for your test:

If you are on blood thinners we will need international normalized ratio (INR) lab results.

### How long will the test take?

About 1 hour.

### What is the purpose of the test?

To determine the cause of fluid accumulation between the chest cavity and lungs, or to relieve the symptoms associated with the fluid accumulation. Accumulation of excess pleural fluid can be caused by a variety of problems, including infection, inflammation, heart failure, or cancer.

### How is the test performed?

A small area of skin on your chest will be washed with a sterilizing solution. Some numbing medicine (local anesthetic) will be injected in this area. A needle will then be placed through the skin of your chest. The radiologist will guide the needle into this space with the help of ultrasound imaging. Fluid will be withdrawn and collected and sent to the lab for analysis.

### Required before test:

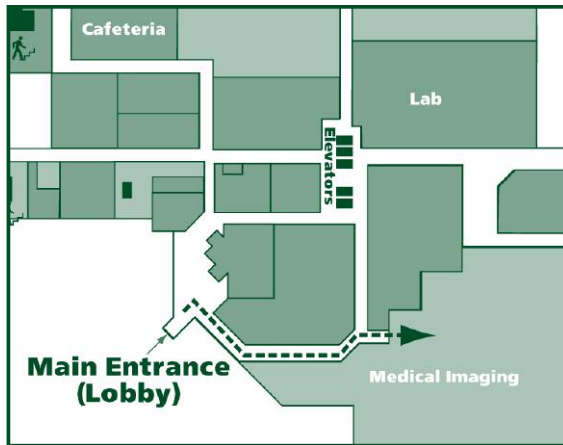
Please provide a signed physician order to perform the exam.

Results will be sent to your ordering physician after a radiologist's review.

## Your test will be conducted at:

### EIRMC (main campus)

Medical Imaging Department  
3100 Channing Way  
Idaho Falls  
**208-227-2600**



## What is ultrasound?

Your doctor has ordered for you a body imaging test known as an ultrasound. Ultrasound is like ordinary sound except it has a frequency (or pitch) higher than human beings can hear. No radiation is involved. When sent into the body via a transducer (small, handheld probe) resting on a patient's skin, the sound is reflected off internal structures. The returning echoes are received by the transducer and converted into pictures of the internal structures on a viewing screen. Diagnostic ultrasound imaging is commonly called sonography or ultrasonography.

## How to register:

Please arrive 10 – 15 minutes early to register (unless you are instructed differently). See the following schedule for guidance on where and when to register. You will need to show a copy of your insurance card and driver's license each time you register.

## Where to register:

Day/Time	EIRMC Location
<i>Mon.- Fri.</i>	
12 - 6:30 a.m.	Emergency Dept. (as outpatient)
6:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Medical Imaging Dept.
4:30 - 7 p.m.	Main Admissions (front of hospital)
7 p.m. - midnight	Emergency Dept. (as outpatient)
<i>Saturday</i>	
12 - 7:30 a.m.	Emergency Dept. (as outpatient)
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Main Admissions (front of hospital)
4 p.m. - midnight	Emergency Dept. (as outpatient)
<i>Sunday</i>	
All day	Emergency Dept. (as outpatient)