



## **Patient Information Sheet**

# **Dobutamine Stress Echocardiogram**

### **What is a Dobutamine Stress Echo?**

A non-exercise stress echocardiogram (echo) test is used to detect coronary artery disease (CAD), a blockage of blood flow to the heart. This test provides a more complete picture of your heart during periods of rest and exercise. During the exam, a medicine called Dobutamine is given to increase the rate and force of your heart beat (similar to what happens during exercise). The echocardiogram uses high frequency sound waves (ultrasounds) to look at how the various parts of the heart work. If CAD is present, the stress echo will often note changes in how the heart muscle contracts. During the test, you will lie down on a bed on your left side. Electrodes will be placed on your chest to record an electrocardiogram (ECG) during the test. An intravenous line (IV) will be placed into your arm. A small transducer (probe) with a gel will be placed on your chest to obtain the ultrasound images of your heart. After the procedure you will rest for 20-30 minutes while the effects of the Dobutamine wears off. You should not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before your test. When you call for your appointment the staff will give you more information and instructions about your test.