

NOTES:

Call location for hours and directions

Locations:

Complete Diagnostic Imaging Services

Saint Anne’s Hospital

Ground Floor, 795 Middle Street, Fall River

508-674-5600 ext. 2300 • Fax 508-235-5636

Free valet parking

Diagnostic Imaging Services
at Saint Anne’s Hospital

For our patients and their physicians, Saint Anne’s Diagnostic Imaging Services combines the expertise of board-certified radiologists with a comprehensive range of advanced imaging technology. Our fully digitized network of imaging technology assures the highest imaging quality with less time and inconvenience for patients, as well as rapid access to the results for physicians. Images can be viewed and sent via computer to multiple specialists within the hospital, across town to a physician’s office or to other hospitals and specialists.

Our dedicated team of physicians and technologists is focused on providing the highest quality imaging and patient comfort. This extends to working with our youngest patients as well as others who require special considerations and appointment scheduling for imaging.

We offer a spectrum of services, including:

- Computerized Tomography (CT) scanning
- Digital X-ray
- Digital Mammography provided in our dedicated Robert F. Stoico/FIRSTFED Center for Breast Care
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
- Nuclear Medicine with CT capability
- PET/CT imaging
- Ultrasound

INTERPRETER SERVICES AVAILABLE

Portuguese - Português

Fala Português? Vamos oferecer-lhe um intérprete gratuito.

Spanish - Español

¿Habla español? Le proporcionaremos un intérprete sin costo alguno para usted.

Digital Imaging:
A High-Tech Change for Better Care

Digital imaging creates a “filmless” environment that permits rapid viewing of pictures and secure transmission to physicians whether they are in the hospital, their nearby practice or a specialist located miles away. Digital images are high quality, environmentally friendly and easier to access via PACS (Picture Archiving Communication System).

The PACS system is part of a patient’s secure and confidential electronic medical record, which provides for improved care through integration of various tests and reports all in one easily-retrievable location.

Care Agreement:

You have the right to help plan your care. To help with this plan, you must learn about your health condition and how it may be treated. You can then discuss treatment options with your caregivers. Work with them to decide what care may be used to treat you. You always have the right to refuse treatment.

Saint Anne’s Hospital

DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING SERVICES



Barium Enema
PATIENT INFORMATION

Saint Anne’s Hospital

795 Middle Street, Fall River, MA 02721
Main Number and Directions 508-674-5600

SaintAnnesHospital.org



Understanding Your Exam

What is an barium enema?

A barium enema is an X-ray of the colon. The colon is also called the large bowel or large intestine (in-tes-tin). A white chalky liquid called barium is put into your colon to help the colon show up better on the X-ray. The test is done in a specially-equipped X-ray room. A barium enema takes about 45 to 60 minutes.

Why do I need an barium enema?

You may need a barium enema if you have one or more of the following problems:

- Abdominal (belly) pain
- Bad constipation (hard bowel movements)
- Blood in your bowel movements
- Diverticuli (swollen pouches in the intestinal wall), swelling, and other changes in the large intestine.
- Colon cancer. The test may be done to help caregivers learn more about a mass that was found on an earlier test.
- Polyps, which are lumps of tissue that bulge out from the lining of the intestine

Before the test:

Your bowel needs to be empty before the barium enema. Doing this will help the X-rays better show the inside of your colon. You will be given preparation instructions to follow before your exam.

The Day Before the Test:

Follow your preparation instructions.

The Day Of The Test:

- Do not eat or drink anything on the morning of the test. If your bowel is not emptied of all matter, you will need to reschedule the test.
- Ask your caregiver before taking any medicine on the day of the test. These medicines include insulin, diabetic pills, high blood pressure pills, or heart pills. Take your medicine as usual with just a sip of water. You should not take pain-killers (narcotics) or medicine for a peptic ulcer before the test.
- Wear loose fitting, comfortable clothes. Avoid wearing girdles, pantyhose, or tight-fitting clothes. You will be asked to put on a hospital gown before the test.

During The Test

- An X-ray technologist gently puts a tube into your rectum. Barium is put through the tube into the colon. The tube may cause a feeling of pressure and you may be uncomfortable. Or, you may feel cramping and full in your abdomen (belly) like you need to have a bowel movement. But you should not have pain. Taking slow, deep breaths will help you relax.
- During the test, the machine and X-ray table will move. You will be asked to roll in different positions (lying on your back, side, and stomach). Try to hold very still while the X-rays are being taken. The barium may be drained out through the tube and air may be put into the tube. X-rays are taken to see the air movement in your colon.
- You will be taken to the bathroom to pass the barium and air that is left in your rectum. Then another X-ray is taken to see if any barium is still in your rectum.

After You Leave

Your stool will be lightly colored from the barium for 24 to 72 hours. It is important to remove the barium from the large intestine. If the barium is not removed, it may harden and block the intestine.

- Follow your caregiver's instructions after the test.
- Drink 6 to 8 glasses (soda pop can size) of liquid after the test to help get rid of the barium. This will also help to keep you from being constipated or dehydrated.

Call your physician if:

- You have pain in your lower abdomen (belly) or stomach.
- You have pencil-thin stools.
- Your stool is not normal in 3 days.
- You have questions or concerns about your illness, medicine, or the barium enema procedure.
- You see blood in your bowel movement.

Appointment Scheduling

508-235-5339

Monday-Friday 8 am - 6 pm

Your physician's office will schedule your barium enema. Our Scheduling staff are able to assist with all scheduling needs, as well as provide patients and physician practices exam preparation instructions when applicable.

If you are unable to keep your appointment and need to reschedule or if you wish to cancel your appointment, please contact us as soon as possible. A 24-hour notice would be greatly appreciated.

Pre-Registration By Phone: 508-235-5674

To expedite your visit, please contact our Patient Assistance Center to pre-register for your exam. If we do not hear from you, a member of our staff will attempt to reach you. Please ensure your physician has your most up to date contact information. During the registration process we can assist you with your co-pay, coinsurance, and deductible.

Once you have pre-registered, you can arrive on the scheduled day and time and go directly to the Diagnostic Imaging Services location.

The Day Of Your Exam

- Use the Valet Parking services where available, Monday through Friday, and reduce the amount of time you spend looking for parking. It's free, and you can pick up your car at the entrance when you are finished with your appointment. No long walks! Hours vary by location.
- For exams scheduled at the hospital: If you have not pre-registered, please go to Patient Registration, located near the main entrance to the hospital, 30 minutes prior to your scheduled exam appointment to be registered for your exam.
- If you are diabetic, inform staff and take your medications as you would normally.
- We want our patients to be as comfortable as possible while having tests performed. However, we ask that you not bring children with you unless you have an adult to watch and care for them while you are having your procedure.
- Pediatric patients must be accompanied by either a parent or legal guardian in order to receive care.