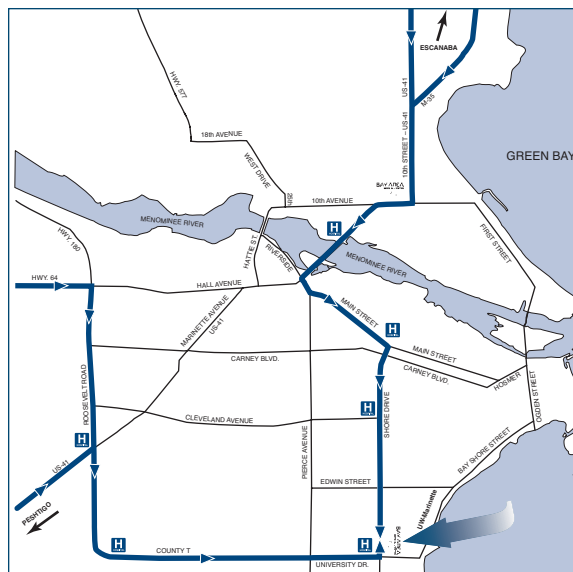


Welcome

Your doctor has scheduled you for an Ultrasound at Bay Area Medical Center. This brochure should answer most of the questions you may have concerning your exam.

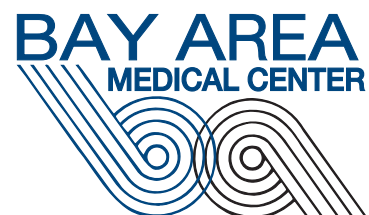
If you have any further questions, call our office staff at 715-735-4200 (Ext. 3301).

Your appointment is scheduled for:



ULTRASOUND

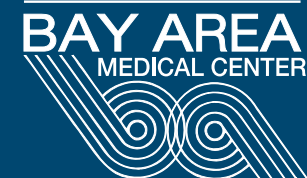
*BAMC Patient's Guide
to Ultrasound*



3100 SHORE DRIVE
MARINETTE, WI 54143
(715) 735-4200

www.bamc.org

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Understanding Ultrasound

What is an Ultrasound?

Ultrasound examination, also called diagnostic medical sonography or sonography, is an imaging method that uses high-frequency sound waves to produce precise images of structures within your body. These images often provide information that's valuable in diagnosing and treating a variety of diseases and conditions.

Why is an Ultrasound performed?

You may need to undergo an ultrasound for a variety of reasons. Ultrasound may be used, among other things, to:

- Evaluate a fetus
- Diagnose gallbladder disease, some forms of infection and some forms of cancer
- Evaluate the muscle and valves of the heart.
- Ultrasound can be used to guide the needle for a biopsy/tissue sample.
- Reveal abnormalities of the thyroid gland, scrotum, kidney, breast and pelvis including female reproductive organs.

Ultrasound uses low power sound waves to produce images that are viewed on a monitor.

What should I do before coming in for my Ultrasound?

Some ultrasound exams require no preparation; others require you do not eat or drink anything for up to 8 hours before the exam. Some ultrasounds require that you have a full bladder and not urinate before the exam. Ask your doctor for specific instructions for your exam.

Comfortable, athletic-type clothing (like a sweat suit) without metal snaps or zippers is the recommended type of clothing to wear to your appointment. Gowns will also be available. You will need to remove all clothing and jewelry in the area to be examined.

You should plan on arriving at the hospital 30 minutes before your ultrasound to allow for completing any necessary paperwork.

Is Ultrasound a safe procedure?

Diagnostic ultrasound is a safe procedure that uses low power sound waves.

Ultrasound does have limitations. Sound waves do not travel well through air or bone. Your doctor may order other imaging tests including CT scans, MRIs or X-rays.

Please check with your doctor if you are uncertain about any of the above mentioned items.

What will happen during my Ultrasound?

You may need to undress and put on an examination gown. You will lie on an exam table, usually face-up, and the table will be tilted or moved.

A clear gel will be spread over the part of your body being studied. An ultrasound technologist (sonographer) or doctor moves a device called a transducer over that part of your body. The transducer sends out sound waves which bounce off the tissues inside your body. The transducer also captures the waves that bounce back. Images are created from these sound waves.

In some ultrasound exams, the transducer is attached to a probe and inserted into a natural opening in the body.

How long will the Ultrasound take?

The scan takes about 30 to 60 minutes (for each exam) depending on the type of information your doctor needs.

What happens after the Ultrasound?

Once the imaging is complete, the gel will be wiped off your skin. You can then get dressed and resume your normal activities. A Radiologist will study the ultrasound images and report the results to your doctor. Your doctor will schedule a time with you to discuss the results of your ultrasound.

How will I be billed for this?

All charges for your visit will be submitted to your insurance carrier including those from BAMC and from the health care providers involved in your ultrasound.

Please bring your insurance card and referral/authorization form (if necessary) on the day of your appointment. Some insurance carriers require precertification for ultrasound exams.

For information on financial counseling or payment questions, call 715-735-8012.

What if I have to cancel my appointment?

Cancellations sometimes are unavoidable; however, we ask that you notify us one day in advance whenever possible. This courtesy assists the staff in daily scheduling of other patients who may be waiting for an appointment.

Contact BAMC at 715-735-4200 (Ext. 3301) to cancel or reschedule an appointment.