



## Echocardiogram

An echo is an ultrasound of the heart. It is one of the most frequently used scans as it allows us to evaluate the structure, function and blood flow through the heart.

## Why does my child need sedation for the echo?

Some children may find it difficult to lie still due to their age or medical condition, so sedation is given.



## Preparing for the sedation

A nurse from the Cardiac Day Unit, will phone you the evening before the procedure as to when your child should start fasting. It is important that you adhere to these fasting times and also give food/drink prior to fasting to ensure that your child is not hungry or thirsty. Please inform us in advance if your child is unwell.



## The Day of Admission

When you arrive to the hospital, check into the admissions department, located on the main corridor beside the shop. You will then be sent to the Cardiac Day Unit, located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Your child will be admitted to the Cardiac Day Unit and you will be asked to sign a consent form for the sedated echo. Sedation medicine will be given and your child will



be placed on a monitor.

## Sedation Medicine

Oral Sedation will be given orally. Some children may require a top up dose.



## The Echo

Your child will lie on the bed and the Echo machine is brought into the room. The scan can last from 20-60 minutes. You can stay with your child throughout the admission and scan.

When the echo is completed your child will remain in the room until they wake up. Most children go home within a few hours. They need to be fully awake, have something to eat and drink, and pass urine before discharge home.