Cardiology Tasmania
Transoesophageal Echocardiogram Appointment

Test Date: ____ /____ /_____

Approximate Test Time: _____ **Advised arrival time to hospital**: _____

Test Location: Hobart Private Hospital – 33 Argyle Street, Hobart ☐

Royal Hobart Hospital – Cardiology Department – 2nd floor – D block ☐

Requesting Doctor: _____

Questions about your appointment: (03) 62143085 (Hobart Private) OR (03) 61660061 (RHH – Cardiology)

General information:

You will be attached to a monitoring system (heart rate, blood pressure and oxygen levels). A cannula will be inserted, and you will be given either sedation ('drowsy') or in most cases anaesthesia ('put to sleep'). Most patients will be given lignocaine throat spray to suppress the gag reflex. A small lubricated ultrasound 'camera' is gently inserted into your oesophagus (food pipe) to take detailed pictures of your heart. The procedure is painless, but some people may be aware of the sensation of something in their mouth or throat if done with light sedation (medications will keep you comfortable). The procedure will take about 20-30 minutes depending on the complexity of your issue.

Before your procedure:

- **You must** be fasted for a **minimum of 6 hours** before the procedure
- A small amount of water (a few sips) with your usual medications is allowed
- **Medications NOT TO TAKE**: _____

Diabetes management plan (if appropriate):

_____

_____

On the day of your test:

- You will be given the opportunity to ask questions
- We will ask you about conditions that are important for the safety of the test:
  - Allergies to medications, neck and jaw issues, sleep apnoea, high dose pain relief or a significant alcohol intake, prior surgery to the oesophagus, lap band, coughing up blood, liver disease, or difficulty with swallowing – **please notify us if you have any of these issues**

Risks:

- You will be closely monitored throughout the test, and it can be stopped at any time
- 1:1,000 risk of damage to the oesophagus or stomach (including a tear – exceptionally rare)
- Small risk of aspiration (saliva or stomach juices spill into the lung and can cause an infection)
- Small risk of allergic reaction to the medications

After your procedure:

- You cannot eat for at least 1 hour if you have had the throat spray (lignocaine), as there is a risk you may choke
- You will be discharged about 2 hours after the procedure depending on how you are feeling
- **You cannot drive for 24 hours after the procedure**
- You will be given the preliminary results, but a formal report will be sent to your referring doctor

---

Follow-up:

Dr: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____