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Pediatric Urology

## Voiding cystourethrogram (VCUG)

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### **What is a VCUG?**

A VCUG is a test that uses X-ray imaging and liquid contrast to study the urinary tract. The urinary tract includes the kidneys, ureters, bladder, and urethra.

### **Why does my child need a VCUG?**

The reasons your child may need a VCUG include: urinary tract infection with fever, fluid in the kidney (hydronephrosis), urinary retention and/or urethral blockage.

### **How is the test performed?**

The test is performed by a radiologist who will insert a small catheter into the urethra until it reaches the bladder. The bladder will then be filled with dye as the X-Ray machine takes pictures. Once the bladder is filled the catheter will be removed and the child will void on the table as the X-Ray machine takes more pictures.

### **How can I prepare for a VCUG?**

You can be with your child for the duration of the study, unless you are pregnant. Your child may eat and drink normally on the day of the study, unless sedation is needed. The sedation used is called Versed which is taken by mouth. Versed is used to help keep your child relaxed for the duration of the study. If sedation is needed you will receive instructions from the radiology staff regarding eating and drinking prior to the study.

### **Who do I call if I have questions?**

If you have questions about the exam or sedation, please call the Radiology Department at Greenville Memorial Hospital at 455-7911 and ask to speak to one of the radiology nurses. If you have questions on how to help your child cope with having a VCUG, please call our Child Life specialists at (864) 455-7846.