OVERVIEW: In radiology, ionizing radiation is used to produce a radiographic image. Before the examination, a radiographer will explain the procedure to you and answer any questions you might have. A radiographer, also known as a radiologic technologist, is a skilled medical professional who has received specialized education in the areas of radiation protection, patient care, radiation exposure, radiographic positioning and radiographic procedures.

If you are a woman of childbearing age, the radiographer will ask if there is any possibility you are pregnant. It is important that you tell the radiographer the date of your last menstrual period and whether there is a chance that you may be pregnant.

UPPER GI SERIES: An upper GI series is an examination that produces x-ray images of your upper gastrointestinal tract, including the esophagus, stomach and part of the small bowel or intestine. This examination is performed when patients experience frequent heartburn or stomach pain, or if your doctor suspects an ulcer or gastric reflux.

PREP: Nothing to eat or drink after midnight the night before your exam.

PROCEDURE: Prior to your examination, you will be given a hospital gown to wear. You will then be asked to stand on a tilting x-ray table. You will be asked to swallow “fizzy” granules to help put air into your stomach. You may feel a need to belch, but try not to. You then will be given liquid barium to drink. The combination of air and barium will allow the radiologist to see your stomach in much greater detail. Various images will then be taken. The examination will take approximately 30 minutes.

RESULTS: After your radiographs have been reviewed by a radiologist, your ordering physician will contact you with the results in approximately 3 days. Your physician then will advise you of the results and discuss what further procedures, if any, are needed.