WHAT IS FLUOROSCOPY?
Fluoroscopy uses low level X-rays to obtain real-time moving images of your internal structures. It displays the movement of a body part or dye (contrast material) through the body. Common uses include diagnosing gastrointestinal disorders, determining causes of infertility, diagnosing orthopedic problems, and providing image-guided treatments, such as joint injection.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR A FLUOROSCOPIC PROCEDURE?
In some cases, there is no prior preparation for a fluoroscopy exam. You may be asked to remove any jewelry, buckles, or items with metallic materials that may hamper a clear reading. You may also be asked to wear a gown. You should tell the technologist if you are pregnant or suspect that you might be pregnant. Also inform your technologist if you have any prior images so they may be obtained for comparison. If you are receiving an orthopedic exam that requires dye (contrast) and you are on Coumadin or Plavix, you will be given special instructions prior to the exam. For some gastrointestinal exams, you may be asked to fast for eight hours prior to the exam.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE EXAM?
Your technologist will take a brief medical history. You will be positioned on the fluoroscopy table either on your side or back. For gastrointestinal exams, you may be given barium (a contrast) to drink during the exam. If a barium enema is being performed, a small rubber tip will be inserted in your rectum where barium is allowed to flow into your intestine. There may be slight cramping. If you are undergoing an arthrogram for orthopedic purposes, the affected joint is cleansed and a needle is inserted into the joint space where contrast or cortisone is released. For all procedures, a radiologist is in the room reviewing real-time images, and you may be asked to change positions. An arthrogram or joint injection can be performed in 30 minutes. Gastrointestinal exams can vary in length, from as little as 30 minutes to a number of hours, depending on how long it takes the barium to reach the colon.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE EXAM?
For gastrointestinal exams, barium may cause constipation following the procedure if it is not completely eliminated. You should drink plenty of fluids and eat high fiber foods to help excrete the barium. Bowel movements may be white and chalky. For arthrogram exams, you may feel some discomfort after the procedure. Do not perform any heavy lifting or rigorous activity for 24 hours. A radiologist will review the images and send a report to your referring physician within one business day. Your doctor will then review the report and contact you with the results.

QUESTIONS?
If you have any questions or concerns about your exam, please call 913.676.2505 or e-mail smmcimaging@shawneemission.org.