



# PULMONARY ASSOCIATES OF LANCASTER

*Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine*

## THORACENTESIS INSTRUCTIONS

You have been scheduled for a thoracentesis. Thoracentesis is a procedure to remove fluid from the space between the lining of the outside of the lungs and the wall of the chest.

You will be asked to sign a diagnostic consent form giving us permission to do the procedure. You do not need to fast prior to this procedure. You may need to have bloodwork prior to your procedure. If you are having your bloodwork done at a facility besides Penn Medicine/Lancaster General Health, please let us know so we can obtain the results prior to your appointment.

**Your Appointment Day/Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Your Appointment Location:

**Location:** **Pulmonary Associates of Lancaster, Ltd.**  
540 N. Duke Street, Suite 244, Lancaster PA 17602

**Parking for Your Procedure:** Park in the LG Downtown Pavilion Parking Area. Traveling south on Duke Street, turn right under the pedestrian bridges and follow the driveway to the LG Downtown Pavilion Parking Garage. Parking is free.

**Location:** **Lancaster General Hospital Outpatient**  
555 North Duke Street, Lancaster, PA 17602

**Parking for Your Procedure:** Parking is available in the James Street Parking Garage. There is a fee to park but your ticket will be stamped when you have your procedure done. Take the Elevator to the first floor and check in with the Admitting Office. They will escort you to your procedure location.

### BEFORE THE TEST:

If you take Coumadin, Xarelto, Eliquis, Pradaxa Lovenox, Edoxaban, Effient, Pletal, Ticlid, Brilinta, Ecotrin or Plavix, you may need to halt these medications until the procedure is performed and may need an INR prior to your procedure. Your physician will tell you when you can resume taking your medications. You should also let us know if you are undergoing chemotherapy as it can affect your blood levels. Your physician/nurse will review your medications. Changes to your medications are listed below.

### Your medication changes:

## Blood work needed prior to your procedure:

### **DURING THE PROCEDURE:**

You will be given a local anesthetic during the procedure to make you comfortable. The procedure takes about 30 minutes. You will need to have a chest X-ray after the procedure has been completed and must be cleared by the physician before you can leave. You can expect to be here for 1 to 2 hours.

### **AFTER THE PROCEDURE:**

You should be able to resume your normal activities after the procedure is done. If you were asked to stop any medications for the procedure, your physician will advise you when you can resume taking those medications after the procedure has been completed.

If you have any questions related to this procedure, please call our Triage nurse at **(717) 826-9771**.