If you are diabetic
Eat and take your insulin or oral medication as directed by your physician. Generally, your blood sugar level should be below 150 mg/dL before your PET/CT scan. Test your blood sugar level before the scan, and make sure our staff knows you are diabetic.

If you are pregnant
Please notify us prior to your exam by calling (530) 894-6200.

Payment reimbursement
All scans require prior authorization. We will assist with insurance forms and billing for prompt reimbursement, however, patients are responsible for payment. We accept Visa and MasterCard.

Your Appointment:
Date: ___________________________ Time: _____________
Special Instructions: ________________________________

Our entire facility is handicap accessible with plenty of free parking.
What is PET?
Positron Emission Tomography (PET) is a powerful imaging technique that holds great promise in the diagnosis and treatment of many diseases, particularly cancer. A non-invasive test, PET scans accurately image the cellular function of the human body. In a single PET scan your physician can examine your entire body. PET scanning provides a more complete picture, making it easier for your doctor to diagnose problems, determine the extent of disease (staging), prescribe treatment, and track progress.

What is PET/CT?
PET (Positron Emission Tomography) and CT (Computed Tomography) scans are both standard imaging exams that physicians use to pinpoint disease states in the body. A PET scan demonstrates the biological function of the body before anatomical changes take place, while the CT scan provides information about the body's anatomy such as size, shape and location. By combining these two scanning technologies, a PET/CT scan enables physicians to more accurately diagnose and identify cancer, heart disease and brain disorders.

What should I expect?
A PET/CT scan is completely painless and has no side effects. After fasting for 4-6 hours, you will receive an injection of a trace amount of radioactive glucose, which is distributed throughout the body. About 60 minutes after the injection, you will empty your bladder, then lie down on the scanner bed. Images will be taken of your body as you lie still on the scanner bed. A scan takes approximately 30 minutes. When the PET/CT scan is done, make sure to drink plenty of water or other fluids throughout the day.

Is PET/CT safe?
A PET/CT scan is extremely safe. There are no known side effects and the quantity of radioactive glucose used is low and degrades quickly. Any remaining is eliminated from the body through urine so that no detectable radioactivity is present after several hours. Family members are not at risk for exposure since greater than 90% of the radioactivity has left the body or decomposed before the patient has left the center. The important thing to remember is to review the list of items and conditions (e.g. pregnancy, diabetes) that may be a problem prior to your exam, and discuss them thoroughly with your physician.

When will my doctor have the results?
Your scan will be read by one of our Board Certified radiologists within 48 hours and the results, including a CD of your exam, will be sent to your doctor. If your physician feels it is necessary to have a report right away, we can accommodate that request. Likewise, if our radiologist feels there is an urgent finding, your physician will be notified immediately. Otherwise, contact your doctor to discuss your PET/CT scan results.

How to prepare for your exam:
• Dress comfortably and warmly. Scanner rooms can sometimes be cool. Try to avoid metallic zippers, snaps, buttons, or underwire bras. We provide a locker for your personal belongings, including metallic items, that you may have with you on the day of your exam.
• Avoid eating anything for at least 4-6 hours before your scan. This includes sugar-free gum, mints, candy, and beverages other than water.
• Take any needed medication that you can take without food.
• No strenuous exercise the day before and the day of your exam (example: working out, jogging, etc.)
• Please bring a copy of your most recent x-ray, CT, or MRI reports with you on the day of your PET/CT scan.
• Be prepared to lie still for 30 minutes while the scan is performed.
• If you are pregnant or diabetic, please see the special instructions on the back of this brochure.