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ELECTIVE DIRECT-CURRENT CARADIOVERSION

You are scheduled for an elective direct-current cardioversion. The reason for this procedure is to convert atrial fibrillation or atrial flutter back to a regular rhythm.

Atrial fibrillation/flutter occurs when the walls of the upper chamber of the heart, the left atrium and the right atrium, begin to contract in a rapid nonarrhythmic manner.

This procedure is done on an outpatient basis in the _____. An I.V. will be started in your forearm. The anesthesiologist will give you sedation through the I.V. An EKG and blood work will be obtained. The nurses will place pads on your chest so the electrical current can convert the rhythm. The procedure itself only takes a few minutes and any discomfort is minimal. The length of stay in the hospital is 2-4 hours. You will be monitored closely for changes in rhythm.

You will need to follow these directions pre-procedure:

1. Nothing to eat or drink 8 hours before the procedure.
2. Do take your medications with a small sip of water except for your Digoxin (Lanoxin).
DO NOT take your Digoxin (Lanoxin) for 24 hours prior to the procedure.

If you have any questions about this information, call the nurses at the office number above.

Your procedure is scheduled at _____.

Check into the _____ on _____,
at _____.