

# **CT ORAL CONTRAST PREP FOR ABDOMEN/PELVIS WITH CONTRAST**

You have been given 2 bottles of Read-Cat. Read-Cat is a special liquid medication also known as “contrast.” This contrast contains barium sulfate which is radiopaque. Since radiopaque agents block x-rays, when you drink the Read-Cat, your stomach, small intestine, and large intestine will appear white on the CT scan. This creates the needed distinction, or contrast, between the digestive system and the surrounding tissues which can help the doctor make a diagnosis.

**Please be sure to follow the directions below on how to prepare for your exam.**

1. If scheduled in the morning, have nothing except water after midnight prior to the exam. If scheduled in the afternoon, you may have a light breakfast and then water throughout the day.
2. Take all normal medications with small sips of water.
3. Report to the radiology department at least 1 day before to pick up the contrast.

## **For AM appointments:**

Drink the 1<sup>st</sup> bottle of Read-Cat the evening before your appointment. (Around 8:00)

Then drink the 2<sup>nd</sup> bottle of Read-Cat 1 hour before appointment.

You will be given a small amount of additional barium by the technologist prior to lying on the table.

## **For PM appointments:**

Drink the 1<sup>st</sup> bottle 4 hours prior to your appointment

Then drink the 2<sup>nd</sup> bottle 1 hour before your appointment

You will be given a small amount of additional barium by the technologist prior to lying on the table.

**\* If you do not drink the oral contrast ahead of time, you will need to drink the contrast when you arrive. This will take at least 1 hour.**