Uroflow Test and Post Void Residual

Read this handout to learn about a uroflow test and post-void residual scan.

Before Your Test

- It's important to arrive to your test with a full bladder and ready to urinate (void).
- Try not to urinate for a few hours before you arrive, if possible.
- You may want to drink extra fluids before the test to help ensure your bladder is full enough.

Uroflow Test

This is a quick voiding test to see how well you urinate. There are no catheters or needles used for this test.

For this test, you will be asked to urinate into a special toilet that measures:

- The strength of your stream
- The time it takes you to void
- The amount of urine you pass.

Please urinate as you normally would.

Do not stop or interrupt your urine flow unless instructed to do so.

Post Void Residual (PVR) Bladder Scan

This test is done after you have voided. The purpose of this test is to find out if you are emptying all the urine out of your bladder. This test is painless and takes less than five minutes.

You will lie down on the exam table with your lower stomach uncovered. We will place ultrasound gel on your stomach over your bladder.

A handheld ultrasound probe will be gently moved over your bladder to measure the amount of any remaining urine.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 6/2026 University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics Authority, All Rights Reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#5075