

## Patient information

### Proctogram - Appointment Details

#### Imaging Department

**There is no need for any special preparation before this examination.**

Your hospital doctor or family doctor has advised that you need a Proctogram. Any alternative treatments or procedures will have been discussed at your initial consultation with your referring practitioner.

#### **What is a Proctogram?**

A Proctogram is an X-ray examination of the last part of the large bowel, the rectum. It is carried out by a radiologist (a doctor specialising in X-rays) with a radiographer present.

#### **What are the benefits of having a Proctogram?**

This procedure will help us make the correct diagnosis, so we will be able to give you the correct treatment.

#### **What are the risks of having a Proctogram?**

We are all exposed to natural background radiation every day of our lives. Each X-ray examination gives us a small additional dose. The dose varies with each examination. Everything is done within the X-ray department to minimise this dose.

**Female patients:** X-rays may be harmful to an unborn child, especially in the earlier stages of pregnancy.

This **will not** apply if

- You are taking the “Pill”
- You have been sterilised or had a hysterectomy
- You have been fitted with a coil (IUD)
- Your husband or partner has had a vasectomy
- Your appointment date is within ten days of the start of your last menstrual period.

**If you are worried about any of these risks, please speak to your Doctor or a member of their team.**

#### **What will happen if I don't have a proctogram?**

Your diagnosis and treatment may be delayed.

## **The examination**

On arrival in the department you will be escorted to a cubicle and asked to undress and put on a gown. You may like to bring your own dressing gown with you to wear.

You will be asked to drink some barium 45mins before your procedure. This will show up your small bowel on the x-rays. In the X-ray room you will be asked to lie on your side on the X-ray table.

The radiologist will put a small tube into your back passage. The white barium liquid goes through this tube into your bowel. A special video recording is taken whilst you are asked to strain and relax your rectum. The tube is removed and you will then be asked to sit on a special commode chair to empty your bowel. When the examination is over you will be shown to the toilet.

**During the examination every care is taken to maintain your privacy and only the necessary staff will remain in the room.**

## **After the examination**

- Continue to eat and drink normally.
- The barium can cause slight constipation for a day or so afterwards. This can be avoided by drinking plenty of fluids. You may notice that your motions are paler than usual – this is due to the barium.
- If you are allowed unlimited drinks, an extra pint of fluid per day over the next couple of days will help pass the barium.

## **Results**

The results of your X-ray examination will be sent to the doctor who requested the examination.

## **Cancellations**

If you are unable to keep this appointment, please let us know as soon as possible and we will arrange another for you.

If you fail to cancel and do not attend you will be discharged back to the care of the referring clinician.

## **Transport**

If your medical condition or mobility needs mean that you cannot get to your appointment any other way and you require transport you should ring the Patient Transport Services (PTS) who will arrange one for you.

**Tel: 0151 706 4676**

**Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 4676**

## **Car parking**

Car parking for visitors and patients is available at the Q-Park multi-storey car park located across the road from the front entrance of the hospital. Vehicle entry to the car park is on Epworth Street which is off Erskine Street. The car park is open 24 hours a day seven days a week and charges apply. The car park is continually monitored by CCTV and parking attendants.

There are disabled spaces located within the car park. If you require help with parking ask a parking host at the car park entrance.

## Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

## Further Information

**If you have any further questions, or require further information, please contact the Appointments Office:**

**Tel: 0151 706 2759**

**Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 2759**

## NHS 111 Service

**Tel: 111**

**Author: Imaging Department**

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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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در صورت تمایل می‌توانید کلیه اطلاعات تصویب شده توسط اتحادیه در رابطه با بیماران را به اشکال مختلف در دسترس داشته باشید، از جمله به زبانهای دیگر، به زبان ساده، چاپ درشت، صوت، خط مخصوص کوران، مون و بصورت روی خطی موجود است.

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