

Patient information

Proctogram examination information

What is a Proctogram examination?

A proctogram is a specialized X-ray examination that provides information on how the last part of your bowel functions. The purpose of the test is to try to find out what may be causing your symptoms (eg incontinence or difficulty in passing stool). You need to allow about 2 hours for the procedure.

What happens during the examination?

When you arrive in the X-ray department you will be asked to drink some barium liquid. You will then be asked to wait for about an hour and a quarter before the examination to allow time for the barium to pass through your system. You may leave the radiology department during this time but you must not leave the hospital.

You will then be asked to change into a hospital gown and dressing gown. You may bring your own dressing gown if you wish. You will then be taken into the examination room and be introduced to a specialist radiographer who will perform the examination. An imaging assistant will assist the radiographer during the examination. This next part of the examination will take approximately 20 minutes.

You will be asked to lie down on a couch and a small tube will be gently introduced into your back passage. A white barium paste will be passed through the tube into your rectum. The tube will then be removed. If you are female we may insert some dye into your vagina. This highlights this area on the X-ray and allows us to see everything in more detail.

You will then be asked to sit on a toilet (commode) positioned within the X-ray equipment. A modesty screen will then be positioned around you. The room will be darkened to enable the special television system to be viewed properly and to provide some privacy.

When you are comfortable we will take three X-rays: first an image is taken at rest, then we will ask you to bear down (strain) without emptying your bowels. Finally we will ask you to empty your bowels.

After the examination you will be shown to a private toilet where you can re-dress before you leave the department.

We fully appreciate that the examination is a little undignified and we will make every effort to make you feel relaxed and comfortable.

Are there any risks or side effects?

The barium may cause constipation, to help prevent this you should have lots to drink for the next few days. The barium may also make your stools paler than usual.

X-rays and pregnancy

Because of the potential risks to an unborn child, for certain examinations we need to know if there is any possibility of a patient being pregnant. All female patients between the ages of 12 and 54 years of age will be asked if there is the possibility of pregnancy. Discussion will be carried out in private and in confidence.

When will you get the results?

The scan / images will be examined after your visit and a written report on the findings sent to your referring doctor which is normally available in 14 days.

Please remember

*If you cannot, **for any reason**, keep this appointment, please telephone **01284 713378**, which is the direct line to the department appointments office. This will avoid undue delay and will help us to keep our waiting list as short as possible.*

It is not advisable to bring children with you for this appointment as staff may not legally look after them.

Please note: The hospital is not responsible for any lost or stolen valuables. Please leave all jewellery at home, including body piercing ornaments and rings if possible. Wedding rings need not be removed.

necessary for students to observe examinations. If you do not wish for an observer to be present please tell the receptionist on arrival.

Images may be used for research purposes as well as teaching. Patients should let a member of staff know if they do not consent to this.

As part of a shared service agreement with other NHS organisations, your radiology images and records may be shared with these other organisations as part of determining and providing your care. If you would like to know more about the extent of this sharing, or you wish us not to share at all with another organisation, or have any other concerns about it, please contact a member of staff.

Car parking

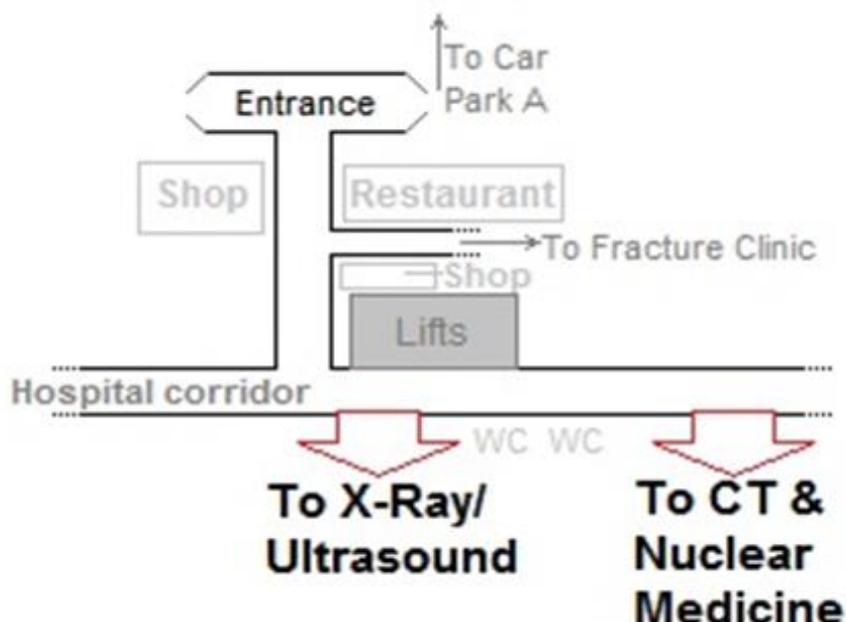
Car parking at the hospital is controlled by a barrier and one-way system. Parking for patients and visitors is primarily in Car Park A at the front of the hospital.



Please check the *patient and visitors/car parking* section of the hospital website for further information on car parking and fees: www.wsh.nhs.uk, or contact the attendants on (01284) 701886.

Please allow plenty of time to park before your appointment as the car park is continuously busy throughout the day.

Directions to the X-Ray Department



Hospital Transport

Hospital transport has **not** been booked. If you are eligible for transport or have any queries regarding transport eligibility, please contact the Patient Transport Coordinator on **0845 8500774**.

Diagnostic Imaging Department

West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust
Hardwick Lane
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 2QZ

Appointments — please contact: 01284 713378

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the hospital website www.wsh.nhs.uk and click on the link, or visit the disabledgo website:

<http://www.disabledgo.com/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust/main>