

## **Evacuating Proctogram – A Patients Guide**

### **What is an Evacuating Proctogram?**

This test is used to investigate any problems that you may have when you try to open your bowels. Barium paste (a chalk-like substance, which shows up on x-ray) is inserted into your rectum via a small tube until you have the urge to go to the toilet. You will then be asked to sit on a specially designed toilet in front of an x-ray machine and given instructions to open your bowels so as to pass the barium out of your back passage. While you do this you will be given privacy in a darkened room. Your doctor will have explained why you need to have this done.

### **Before your examination**

You will not have to do anything before your arrival in the department. You can eat and drink as normal and continue to take any medication that you would normally take.

Please arrive 15 Minutes before your examination time to allow time to get changed. If you have any mobility concerns could you please contact the department when you receive this letter. On 01702 385280

You should expect to be in the X-ray Department for approximately 1 hour.

### **Do I need to bring anyone?**

No. There is no reason why the test should have any adverse effects. However, you are welcome to bring along somebody for support if you so require, who can wait for you in the waiting area when you go for your examination.

### **What happens when I arrive?**

On arrival in the X-ray Department, you will be asked to change into a gown. Your clothes will be placed in a bag and taken with you to the examination room.

### **What happens next?**

You will be asked some questions relating to how your bowel works and the problems you have been having. We then explain the procedure to you. And answer any questions you may have before commencing the procedure. Although there are no risks involved in performing the test, some patients may find they experience some mild discomfort.

### **After the examination**

You should be able to go home as soon as the test is finished.

### **Further information**

If you have any concerns or questions about your Evacuating Proctogram please telephone The 1st Floor X-Ray Reception Desk. On 01702 385280 Or 01702 435555 Ext 5280

### **When will you get the results?**

The images will be examined in detail after your visit by the radiologist and a written report on the findings sent to your referring doctor.