

## **Water Soluble Contrast Enema – A Patients Guide**

### **What is a Water Soluble Contrast Enema?**

This is an examination of the large bowel. A small flexible tube is gently inserted into the back passage (or via the stoma), and a liquid visible to X-rays is slowly introduced while a series of X-Rays are taken. You should expect to be in the department for approximately 30-45 min. Please bring a list of any medications you are taking, a dressing gown and a change of colostomy bag.

No preparation is required for this examination, but please arrive **15 Minutes before your examination time**, to allow time to get changed.

### **Who will be doing the Water Soluble Contrast Enema examination?**

The examination will be performed by a Radiologist with a radiographer and assistant present.

### **What happens during the procedure?**

Once changed you will be called into the examination room and asked to lie down on the x-ray couch. A small tube will be gently inserted into your back passage and secured in place. A special liquid visible on x-rays is then slowly introduced into the bowel. As the liquid is run in several x-rays will be taken and you will be asked to move into different positions to aid the passage of the liquid. Once the procedure is complete most of the liquid will be drained away and the tube will be removed. You will then be directed to the toilet so that any remaining fluid can be passed. You will then be able to dress and leave.

### **Can you eat and drink afterwards?**

You can eat and drink as normal afterward.

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

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