



## Preparation for CT Colonography Scan

# Scanning Department Radiology

# Great Western Hospital

If you need to cancel or you have queries or concerns  
please contact the department on

**01793 60 50 51**

Opening Hours

**Monday- Friday 9.00am – 4.30pm**



# Preparation for CT Colonography Scan

## What is a CT Scan?

A computerised tomography (CT) scan uses X-rays and a computer to create detailed images of the inside of the body.

## Can I bring a friend or relative?

Yes. Your relative or friend may come with you to the scanning department, but they may not be able to stay with you for the CT scan.

Please note there are no childcare facilities within Radiology.

## What clothing shall I wear?

You will be asked to remove your clothing and put on a hospital gown. Metal and jewellery in the area to be scanned will need to be removed.

## Can I take my medicines as usual?

Yes, continue to take all medicines as normal.

## What do I do before I come in?

***Preparations start 2 days before your appointment-see attached information***

- Follow the diet sheet (attached).



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- Drink the Gastrograffin on two consecutive nights (instructions attached).
- Ring us if you have a stoma.
- Ring us if we make it difficult to take your usual medicines.

## What happens during the CT scan?

- The scan usually takes about 30 minutes to complete, but can take more than an hour including preparation time.
- You may be given an injection of muscle relaxant (buscopan) to reduce bowel spasm which wears off in an hour.
- A small, narrow, flexible tube will be inserted into your back passage and a gas (CO<sub>2</sub>) will be used to inflate your bowel.
- A contrast dye, often iodine, may be injected into a vein in your arm. This contrast dye highlights your blood vessels and creates clearer pictures.
- You'll be expected to lie on your side, back and front on the CT table.
- The radiographer will operate the scanner from the next room.
- While the scan is taking place, you may be asked to hold your breath for a few seconds whilst the table moves through the scanner.



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## Are there any risks?

In rare instances, some people may have an allergic reaction to the contrast dye.

During your procedure you will receive a dose of ionising radiation to help us form images of your body and this will provide your doctor with detailed information. The radiation dose is always kept as low as possible. The actual dose you receive will vary depending on the type of procedure you are having, but your doctor has considered this and feels that this is the best procedure for you to have to help diagnose or treat your condition.

We are all at risk of developing cancer in our lifetime and the added risk from undergoing your procedure is small. This is outweighed because of the benefits it provides and every procedure that you have in Radiology has been assessed to ensure that the benefit outweighs the risk. For more information see the displays within the department or ask a member of staff.

## What happens after?

You may eat and drink normally, but it is important to drink plenty of fluids for the following 24 hours. Abdominal discomfort from the gas should pass off soon after the scan. If your eye sight became blurred (from the muscle relaxant) **do not drive** until your eye sight is back to normal.



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## How will I know the results of the CT scan?

- The results will not be available on the day because the Radiologist will need to study your images and write a report.
- You will receive a letter or follow up appointment from the clinic to discuss the results
- If your GP requested the scan, please visit the surgery for your results

## What if I am pregnant or breast feeding?

Please contact the booking office on the telephone number below.

## Are there any weight restrictions?

If you weigh more than 140kg (22 stones) please let us know.

## What if I need to change or cancel my CT Scan?

Ring **01793 605051**

Mon-Fri 9.00am -4.30pm



# Preparation for CT Colonography Scan

**This information sheet is available to order in other languages and formats. If you would like a copy, please contact us on 01793 604031 or email [gwh.pals@nhs.net](mailto:gwh.pals@nhs.net)**

**Document Control**

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