



# Your Lumbar Puncture Examination

## Radiology Department

# Great Western Hospital

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

**01793 60 50 59**

Opening Hours

**Monday - Friday 9.00am – 4.30pm**



# Your Lumbar Puncture Examination

## **What is a Lumbar Puncture?**

This is a procedure whereby a fine needle is inserted into the lower back under x-ray guidance, it is done in an x-ray room so that the positioning of the injection is monitored and is accurate. The procedure is performed by a Consultant in Radiology.

## **Are there any risks involved?**

The benefits far outweigh the risks for all methods of medical imaging, there is a minimal risk of infection, but cases like these are rare. The Radiologist will explain the risks and procedure before starting the examination.

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 and 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.

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## Weight Limit

There is a weight limit of 146kg (23 stone) for the equipment. Please ring for further advice if you think you may be too heavy.

### Before:

- If you are using **Warfarin or Clopidogrel** it is important that you ring the department on the telephone number below as soon as possible. You will need advice about using it during the days coming up to your appointment.
- You should not drive yourself home afterwards, please consider this when making transport arrangements.
- If you are a female of childbearing age:

**You must ring for further advice if you are breastfeeding, or think you might be pregnant.**

**Concerns or queries ring:- 01793 60 50 59 Monday  
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### During:

- The Radiologist will explain the procedure in detail and ask you to sign a consent form.
- You will be asked to undress and wear a hospital gown.
- The procedure involves an injection of local anaesthetic to numb the area.
- X-ray dye will be injected into the affected area to enhance visualisation.
- This examination can take up to 30 minutes.



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## After:

- You should expect to stay in our recovery area for 30 minutes after the procedure.
- You should not drive yourself home. Please consider this when making your transport arrangements.
- Once you have reached home you should rest for the remainder of the day. You should be able to resume normal activities the following day.
- For 48 hours post procedure, do not apply direct heat or cold to the area (i.e. hot water bottles, hot baths, heat and cold packs). You may take your normal painkillers (but not aspirin) should there be any discomfort.

From 1st January 2019 smoking will not be permitted on any NHS site in England. Smoking will not be permitted within any of our buildings or anywhere outside on our sites. Smoking facilities will not be provided. Please be considerate of others when vaping in hospital grounds.

**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)**

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