



# Your MRI Small Bowel Study

# 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 47**

Opening Hours

**Monday-Friday**

**9.00am – 4.30pm**



# Your MRI Small Bowel Study

## **What is an MRI Scan?**

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) is a method of obtaining pictures of the tissues and organs within the body. The scanner uses a combination of a powerful magnet, radio-frequency waves and a sophisticated computer.

You can now watch a video of what happens by visiting us at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wa9jRLq8>

## **Do I have to have this scan?**

The doctor has requested this scan for you. It is the easiest way to gain the information needed to diagnose your problem.

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

The Radiographer will run through a simple safety check with you to make sure you can be scanned.

An MRI scan is not suitable for everyone. Before booking, please read the safety information below and ring us if you have a query.

## **It is important that you ring us if any of the following applies to you:**

- **Pregnancy**
- **Heart Pacemaker**
- **Aneurysm clips in your head**
- **Any metal implants (other than dental work)**
- **Accidents involving metal splinters in your eye, head or body**
- **Surgery within the past 3 months**



# Your MRI Small Bowel Study

## **Weight Limit**

There is a weight limit of 200kg (31 stone) for the MRI scanner, please ring for further advice if you think you may be too heavy.

## **What do I have to do before I come?**

- We would like you **not to eat or drink for 6 hours** prior to the scan. Sips of water are allowed.
- You should continue with your usual medication.
- You will be asked to remove all metal objects such as watch, coins and credit cards. This is because of the strong magnetic field in the scanner.
- **You will not be asked to remove your wedding ring.**
- Please remove all other jewellery and body piercing ornaments and leave them at home.
- Eye make-up can contain metal particles, so this should not be worn.
- If you are able to wear loose clothing without metal fastenings, you will not need to change. Don't worry if you have nothing suitable – we can provide a gown.



# Your MRI Small Bowel Study

## What does the MRI Scan involve?

- Immediately before the scan we will ask you to drink a large volume of special fluid. You need to drink as much as possible over a 1 hour period.
- We will give you a small injection at the start of the scan. This settles any stomach cramps, and may give you a dry mouth.
- A second injection of contrast is given to highlight inflammation in the bowel.
- The scanning time should take 20 minutes. Please allow 2 hours in total for the whole examination.
- You will need to keep still whilst the scan is taking place.
- The scanner does make a drumming noise, but ear protection is provided. You should not experience any discomfort
- We can play music from your own CD if you wish.



# Your MRI Small Bowel Study

## What happens after the Scan?

- You may experience frequent loose motions for a short period. We apologise for this but it is a mild consequence of the drink taken
- The Radiologist will study the images and report on them.
- The report will be sent directly to your referring doctor.
- You will receive a letter or follow-up appointment to discuss the results, please allow up to one month for this.



# Your MRI Small Bowel Study

**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**

Division: Diagnostics & Outpatients  
Department: Radiology  
Approved Date: 8.11.2018  
Next Review Date: November 2021  
Document Number: D&O - PIL0049