

Information for Patients and Carers

Contrast via Stoma

Genito-Urinary (GU) Loopogram



What is a urinary loopogram?

A urinary loopogram is an x-ray examination to assess your stoma (the opening on the surface of your abdomen), the ileal conduit (the part of your small bowel that has been used as a substitute for your bladder), your ureters and kidneys. As part of the examination a contrast agent (an x-ray dye) is introduced through a small tube which will be inserted into your stoma.

This examination is carried out to ensure that your stoma and the ileal conduit is functioning efficiently. This examination is performed by an advanced practitioner radiographer or a consultant radiologist.



They will also produce a report after your examination for the clinician. An assistant will also be in the examination room during your loopogram.

Please inform us before you attend:

- If you are or think you may be pregnant
- If you are breast/chest feeding
- If you weigh over 28 stone/178kg
- If you require the use of a hoist
- If you require an interpreter – please inform us as soon as you receive your appointment letter and we will arrange an official interpreter for you

Are there any special preparations required before the examination?

There is no specific preparation for this examination. However, we ask that you bring to your appointment a spare stoma bag and all the equipment you usually use to change your bag.

Can I bring a relative or friend with me?

Anyone can accompany you to the hospital, but they will usually not be allowed into the room when you have your examination.

Please note that we do not have childcare facilities; if you need to bring your children with you, please bring along an adult who can supervise them while your examination is being done.

What happens when I arrive at the x-ray department?

When you arrive at the X-ray department, please book in at the reception desk where you will be asked to have a seat in the waiting area.

Before starting the examination, the radiographer will ask you to put on a hospital gown in the changing area. When you are ready, they will take you through to the examination room.

Once in the room the radiographer will check some details with you and complete a checklist to ensure it is safe for you to have the contrast agent.

The radiographer will explain the examination and answer any questions you may have.

What happens during the examination?

To begin, you will be asked to lie on your back on the x-ray table. The radiographer will gently remove your stoma bag and cover your stoma with swabs to ensure any leakage from your stoma is contained.

The radiographer will then gently introduce a small catheter (a soft, flexible tube) into your stoma, this should not be painful.

Once the catheter is in place within your stoma, a very small balloon, on the tip of the catheter, will be inflated with sterile water. The balloon ensures the catheter remains in position during the examination. As the balloon inflates you may have a sensation of pressure and a very mild discomfort which should wear off quickly once the balloon is sufficiently inflated.

The radiographer will then move the x-ray camera so it is above your abdomen – the camera will not touch you. Once in position the radiographer will slowly start to inject the contrast agent through the catheter; whilst doing this the radiographer will also be taking x-rays to demonstrate the movement of the contrast agent. To encourage contrast agent to flow through your ileal conduit into your ureters and kidneys you may be asked to turn into different positions, such as towards your left side then onto your right side.

When the radiographer is confident that they have the necessary x-rays, they will deflate the balloon on the tip of the catheter. This will then allow the catheter to be easily removed. As the catheter is removed the radiographer will cover your stoma with some more swabs to ensure your stoma and skin are clean and dry before placing your new stoma bag on for you.

What happens after the examination?

Once your stoma bag is in place you will be able to get dressed and leave the x-ray department.

Are there any side effects?

After the examination you may experience very minor bleeding from the stoma; this is normal after your examination due to the catheter being placed inside and should subside shortly after the examination. At the time of your examination you will be advised of this and the procedure to follow after the examination should this happen.

Are there any risks?

A very small number of patients have an allergic reaction to the contrast agent. Before your examination begins the radiographer will ask you a series of questions about your medical history, including any allergies you may have. This will help us assess if you are at risk of an allergic reaction.

There are some small risks involved with x-rays but only the minimum amount of radiation is used to produce the images required. We use the smallest dose possible, in line with national regulations, to provide as much information as we can about your condition. This allows the doctors to make an accurate diagnosis to help plan your treatment, therefore the benefits of having the examination far outweigh the radiation dose you will receive.

When will I receive the examination results?

The X-rays will be reported on after your examination. The results will be sent to the clinician who referred you for this examination which they will discuss with you at your next appointment with them. If you do not yet have a follow-up appointment, your clinician will be in contact with you once they have received your examination results. Unfortunately, you will not receive any results on the day of your examination.

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact us on the below telephone numbers:

- If your appointment is at Royal Preston Hospital, please call **01772 522096**.
- If your appointment is at Chorley and South Ribble Hospital, please call **01257 245196**.

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

www.patient.co.uk

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware
<https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/>

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is not responsible for the content of external internet sites.

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals is a smoke-free site. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on any of our premises, either inside or outside the buildings. Our staff will ask you about your smoking status when you come to hospital and will offer you support and advice about stopping smoking this will include Nicotine Replacement Therapy to help manage your symptoms of withdrawal and the opportunity to speak to a nurse or advisor from the specialist Tobacco and Alcohol Care Team. If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone **08081962638**.

Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.

This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.

Our patient information group review our leaflets regularly, if you feel you would like to feedback on this information or join our reading group please contact on email address:

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