

Loopogram



Radiology Department

This leaflet provides you with information about having a Loopogram. It explains what is involved and who you will meet.

A Loopogram is an x-ray examination carried out on patients with a stoma (opening of bowel onto the surface of the abdomen) to show the loop of bowel that has been used as a substitute for your urinary bladder.

What preparation is required?

No preparation is required before a loopogram; you can eat and drink as normal. You will need to bring a spare stoma bag and any dressings you may require as the bag will need to be removed to carry out the procedure.

Women of child bearing age

This examination is not advisable for pregnant women, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please advise the x-ray department in advance if you think you are or might be pregnant.

Please note that our x-ray table has a patient weight limit of 23 stones or 146kg. If you know that you weigh more than this it is important that you telephone the department on **01483 464150**.

Can I bring a relative or a friend?

Yes but for safety reasons, you will need to come into the x-ray room on your own.

The Radiology Department

Radiology is also known as the X-Ray or Imaging Department.

Who will I meet?

Receptionist/Clerical Staff: can help you make or change your imaging appointments and ensure your details are correct when you arrive for your appointment.

Radiographer: a health care professional who will assist the radiologist.

Radiologist: a specialist doctor trained to take images during the examination. They will also interpret the images and report them for your consultant.

What happens when I arrive?

Please register at the reception desk, where you will be directed to the waiting area. You will have to undress for the procedure; you will be shown to a private cubicle where you will be provided with a gown.

What will happen during the examination?

Your verbal consent will be gained prior to commencing the examination.

You will need to lie on the x-ray table and remove your stoma bag. The doctor will pass a small flexible tube through the opening of your stoma. On the end of the tube is a small balloon which is inflated to make a seal within your stoma. We then inject some watery dye through this tube whilst taking a series of x-ray images. When we have obtained sufficient images we can remove the tube and you may replace your stoma bag.

The whole procedure should take approximately twenty minutes.

Are there any risks or side effects associated with this examination?

A Loopogram is a very safe examination. You may experience a bloated feeling as the bowel fills with the x-ray dye but it shouldn't be painful. The risk of an allergic reaction to the x-ray dye is extremely rare, as is perforation (piercing) of the bowel which could require surgery and/or antibiotics.

As with all x-ray examinations, we endeavour to keep the exposure to radiation to the absolute minimum.

Will the examination be painful?

A Loopogram should be painless.

Is there an alternative to this procedure?

No. various types of scan such as CT, U/S and X-rays can show the size and shape of the bowel, but not how it is working.

What about after care?

Following the examination, as the dye is very sticky, it will be essential to thoroughly clean the skin area around your stoma to ensure a new bag will adhere to the skin.

When will I get the results?

The x-rays we take will be reported on after your visit and the results sent to your referring doctor, which is normally within 14 days. If you already have a clinic appointment you will receive the results then, otherwise you will receive a letter with a date for a clinic appointment.

Privacy and dignity

Sometimes tests, although necessary, can be embarrassing or undignified for patients but we will endeavour to do everything we can to make you as comfortable as possible during your visit to the department. We hope that the information in this leaflet will answer any questions you may have but please feel free to contact us if you have any particular worries, questions or concerns.

Patient surveys

We value your opinion on our service and in order to deliver, maintain and improve this service we ask you to complete a short patient questionnaire found with the appointment letter. Completion of this survey is entirely voluntary.

Questions and contacts

If you have any further questions, please contact the Radiology Department on:

01483 571122 Extension **2050** or **01483 464150**

Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm.

If you are unable to keep your appointment, please contact us as soon as possible.

For further information about Diagnostic Imaging Services at Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, please contact:

Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust,
Egerton Road,
Park Barn,
Guildford
Surrey
GU2 7XX

www.royalsurrey.nhs.uk

Reference source

- Royal College of Radiologists
- Chapman & Nakielnys guide to radiological procedures

Useful websites

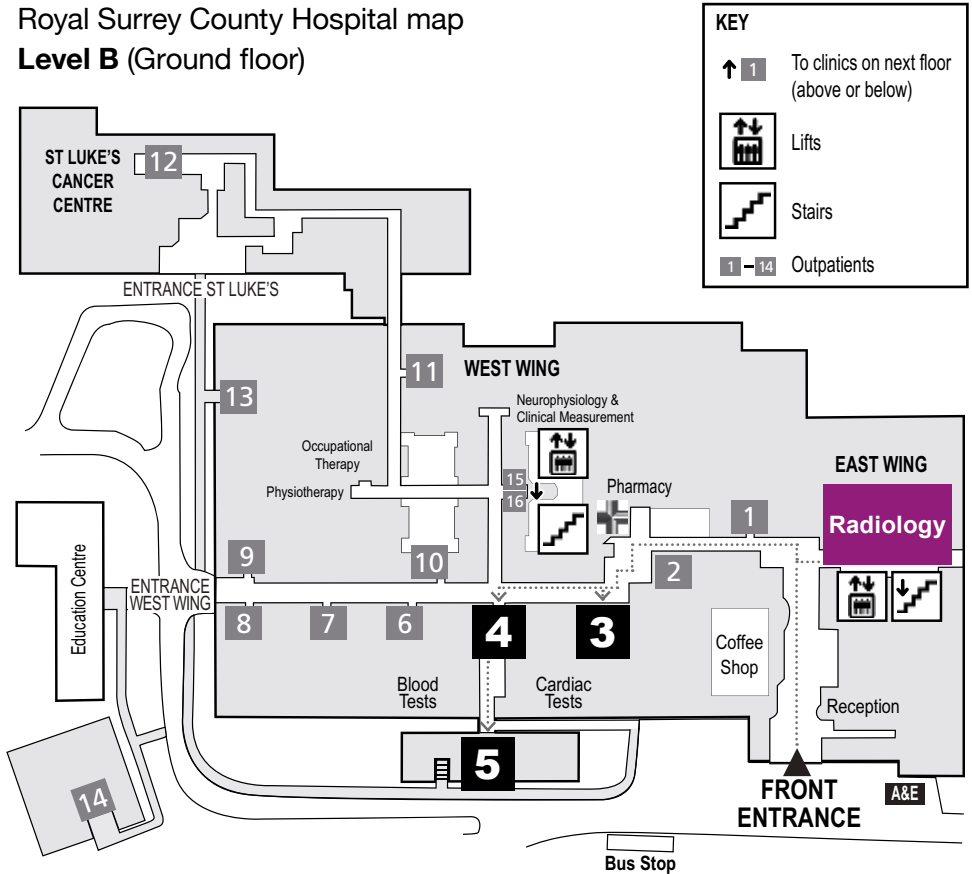
- The Royal college of radiologists – www.rcr.ac.uk/
- Nice Guidelines – www.nice.org.uk

Information on radiation

www.gov.uk/government/publications/ionising-radiation-dose-comparisons/ionising-radiation-dose-comparisons

How to find the Radiology department

Royal Surrey County Hospital map
Level B (Ground floor)



Data sharing reference information is available on Royal Surrey County Hospital patient information leaflet entitled:

Your Healthcare records - your information **PIN120703-562**.

PALS and Advocacy contact details

Contact details of independent advocacy services can be provided by our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) who are located on the right hand side as you enter the main reception area. PALS are also your first point of contact for health related issues, questions or concerns surrounding RSCH patient services.

Telephone: 01483 402757

Email: rsc-tr.pals@nhs.net

Opening hours: 9.00am–3.00pm, Monday to Friday

If you would like information documents in large print, on tape or in another language or form please contact PALS.

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