

# Paediatric Micturating Cysto- Urethrogram (MCUG)

Radiology Department



**Patient information leaflet**

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

A micturating cystourethrogram (MCUG) is an x-ray examination that shows how well your child's bladder works. It is used to diagnose why your child may have urinary tract infections. It is also used to show up any abnormalities with your child's urinary system.

## What preparation is required?

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Your paediatrician should have given you a prescription for antibiotics in preparation for this examination. Please ensure you follow the instructions with the medicine. It is very important the course is started the **day before** the appointment. If your child is currently on low dose antibiotics please double the dose: the day before, the day of and the day following the examination.

Please do not attend the appointment if your child is unwell, for example; head cold, chicken pox etc. Please reschedule the appointment when your child is better.

Please bring a spare nappy and any distraction devices you feel may help, for example a rattle or bottle of feed. It would also help if your child arrives following a feed.

You may accompany your child throughout the examination unless there is any chance of pregnancy. If this is the case, please find an alternative carer to look after your child as you will only be able to stand behind the lead screens and will not be able to stay with them.

## The Radiology Department

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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.
- **Radiographers:** a health care professional 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?**

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Please register at the reception desk, where you and your child will be directed to the waiting area.

## **What will happen during the examination?**

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Your child will need to have their clothes and nappy removed and lay on the x-ray table on their back. Older children may wear a T shirt or change into a gown.

The doctor or nurse will need to clean the surrounding skin and put some local anaesthetic jelly in the genital area and then pass a very fine tube into your child's bladder. Through this tube we will drip x-ray dye to fill the bladder. Once the bladder is full we will wait for your child to urinate (pee). Babies and young children will naturally pee when their bladders are full. Older children will be given a container to pee into.

Once your child starts to empty their bladder we will record real time x-ray pictures in order to look for any of the dye flowing backwards into one, or both of the ureters leading to the kidneys. We may have to turn your child onto their side at this stage. After emptying their bladder the examination is completed, we will remove the tube and you will be free to leave.

The examination usually takes 20 to 30 minutes, but please allow yourself an hour for the appointment.

## **Are there any risks or side effects to the examination?**

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A micturating cystogram is a very safe examination. The dye we use is iodine based, however, as it does not enter the bloodstream, allergic reactions are extremely rare.

As with any bladder catheterisation, at whatever age there is a small risk of infection. The antibiotics should prevent this from happening

but please monitor your child for a few days for any symptoms e.g. running a temperature.

As with all x-ray examinations, we endeavour to keep the exposure to radiation to the absolute minimum. Your referring clinician has decided the risks from missing a serious disorder by not having this investigation outweighs the risk from the amount of radiation dose your child will receive.

## **Is there an alternative test?**

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There are various scans such as CT and Ultrasound, as well as x-rays that can show the size and shape of the bladder, but they cannot show how your child's bladder is emptying.

## **Will the examination be painful?**

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The catheterisation is uncomfortable rather than painful. Often the child will get distressed due to the strange environment and the fact they have to be held still.

## **Aftercare advice**

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If your child is not having further scans or tests you will be free to go home following the examination. Although very unlikely, if your child develops a high temperature, has discomfort when peeing or becomes unwell, please contact your family doctor (GP) or paediatrician.

## **When will I get the results?**

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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**

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We will try to make your visit to our department as comfortable as we can.

## Patient survey

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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.

## Reference source

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- Chapman and Nakielnys guide to radiological procedures

## Contact

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If you have any questions or would like to know more about this examination, please contact the Radiology Department on:

**01483 571122 ext: 2050 or 01483 464150**

**Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm**

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

## Useful websites

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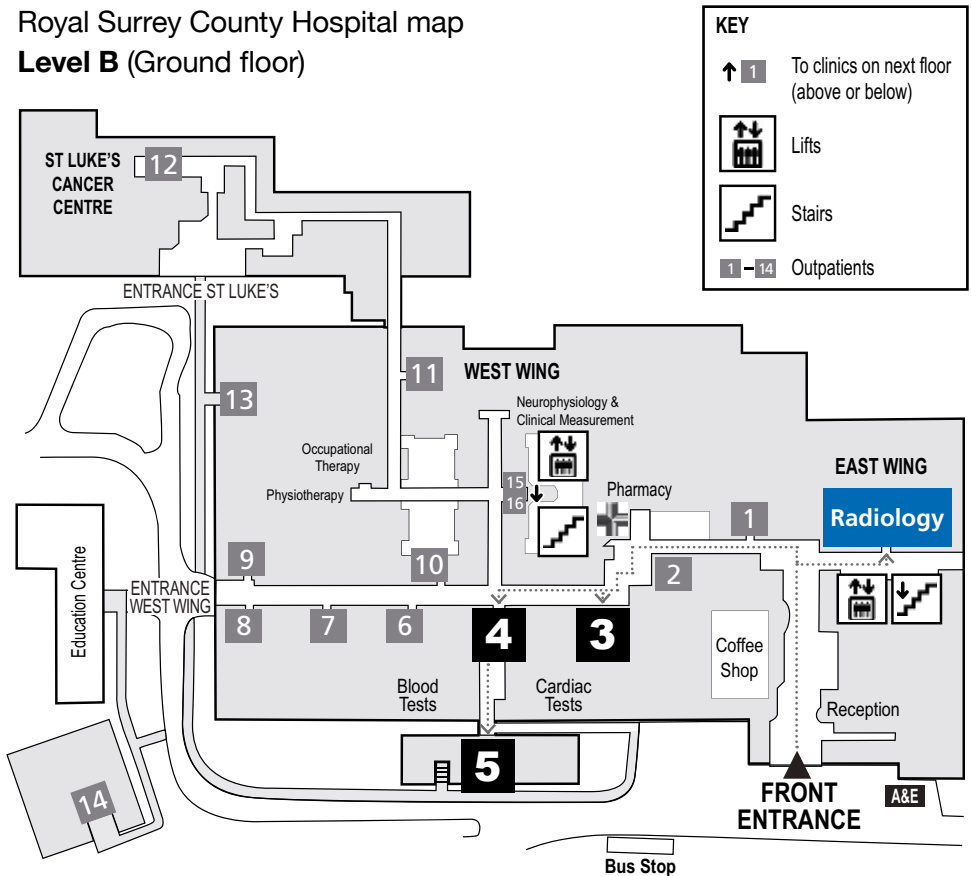
- **The Royal College of Radiologists**  
[www.rcr.ac.uk/](http://www.rcr.ac.uk/)
- **Nice Guidelines**  
[www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)
- **Information on radiation**  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/ionising-radiation-dose-comparisons/ionising-radiation-dose-comparisons](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ionising-radiation-dose-comparisons/ionising-radiation-dose-comparisons)
- **NHS Choices**  
<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Urinary-tract-infection-children/Pages/Diagnosis.aspx>



# 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

**Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust**

Egerton Road

Guildford

Surrey

GU2 7XX

[www.royalsurrey.nhs.uk](http://www.royalsurrey.nhs.uk)

## Radiology Department contact details

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**Telephone:** 01483 571122 **ext** 2050 or 01483 464150

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## PALS and Advocacy contact details

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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](mailto: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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Future review date: March 2020

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**PIN170802–1213**

