

Male Urethrogram

Radiology Department



[Patient information leaflet](#)

This is an examination of the male urethra, using x-ray dye to show the length of the urine tube from the bladder to the outside.

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

What preparation is required?

No preparation is required before an Urethrogram; you can eat and drink as normal.

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 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.
- **Radiographers:** a health care professional who will assist the radiologist.
- **Radiologist:** a specialist doctor trained to inject x-ray dye and 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. A private changing cubicle and gown will be provided and you will be asked to remove your clothes from below the waist. We would also like you to empty your bladder at this stage.

What will happen during the examination?

Your verbal consent will be gained prior to commencing the examination. You will also be asked relevant medical history, including any allergies you may suffer from. We will ask you to lie on the x-ray table on your back. The end of the penis will then be cleaned with a sterile cleaning fluid and a local anaesthetic gel administered. A small plastic tube called a catheter will be inserted by the doctor into the tip of the penis and a small balloon at the end of the catheter will be inflated to keep the catheter in place.

X-rays are then taken as the dye is introduced through the catheter. Depending on the information your referring doctor requires, we sometimes will then fill your bladder through this tube, remove the tube and then take x-rays as you urinate (pee) into a bottle. The procedure normally takes between 20 to 30 minutes.

Are there any risks or side effects to the examination?

An urethrogram is a 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 there is a small risk of infection. Following this examination, if you find it painful to urinate, experience increased urgency in urinating or have a temperature, please contact your GP as you may need antibiotics.

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

Will the examination be painful?

An urethrogram may cause a little discomfort during catheterisation. In addition, as the dye is introduced you may have a sensation of pressure in your urethra, especially if you do have a stricture (narrowing) of that area.

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.

Is there an alternative examination?

There is no alternate examination within this trust.

Aftercare advice

Following the examination, you will be able to return to work.

The dye we use is sticky to the touch and you may notice this on your skin. It washes off easily.

Privacy and dignity

Sometimes tests, although necessary, can be embarrassing or undignified for patients but we promise 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 survey

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 concerns

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call us on the number in your appointment letter.

Reference source

- Chapman and Nakielnys guide to radiological procedures

Contact

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

- The royal college of radiologists – www.rcr.ac.uk/
- NICE guidelines – www.nice.org.uk

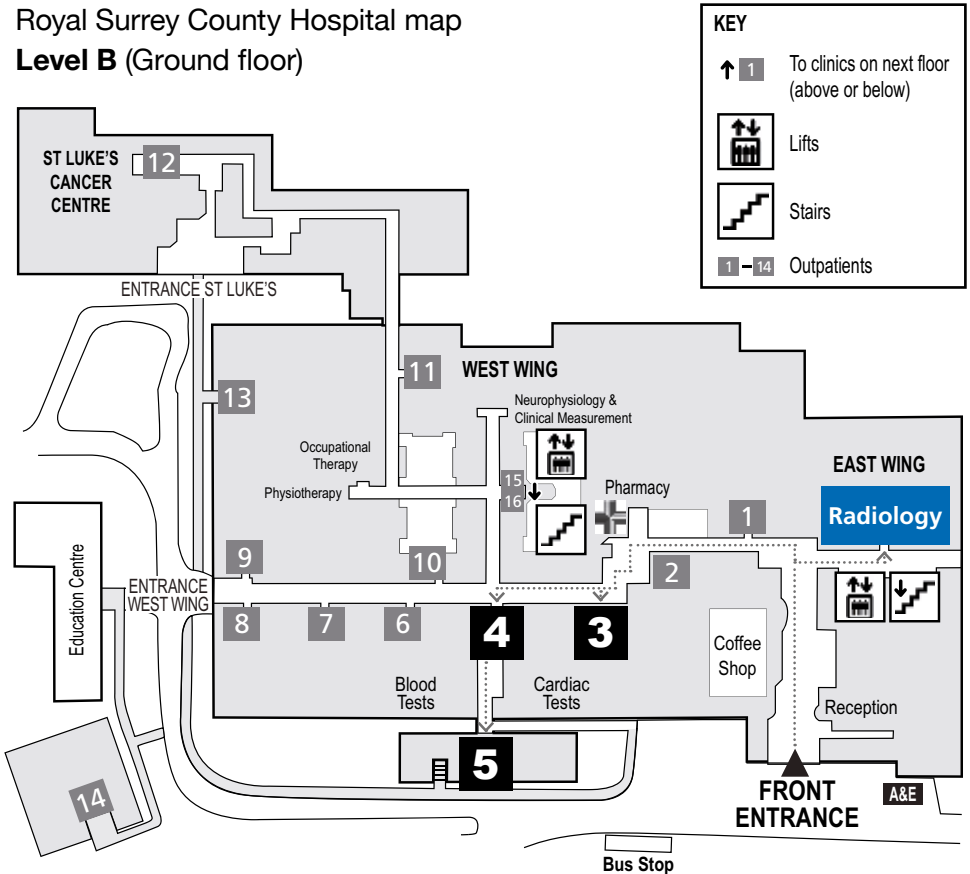
Information on radiation

- 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

Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Egerton Road

Guildford

Surrey

GU2 7XX

www.royalsurrey.nhs.uk

Radiology Department contact details

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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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