

# Information for parents of children undergoing a Micturating Cystourethrogram

## What is a micturating cystourethrogram?

A micturating cystourethrogram (MCUG) is a special type of X-ray test that looks at the bladder, which stores urine, and the urethra, the tube that carries urine out of the body. It is used to diagnose why your child may be having urinary tract infections. It is also used to show up any abnormalities with your child's urinary system.

## How is my child prepared for the test?

Your child will need to have a three-day course of antibiotics, from the day before the scan until and including the day after the scan. This is because inserting the catheter into the bladder can increase the risk of a urinary tract infection, and the antibiotics may help to prevent this.

If your child is **not currently** taking antibiotics to prevent urinary tract infections, they will need to take an antibiotic (trimethoprim) twice a day for three days. Please make an appointment with your GP a week before the scan appointment to organise this.

If your child is **currently** taking antibiotics to prevent urinary tract infections, you will need to give double the dose for the three days, either in one single larger dose or give an extra dose in the morning or evening.

## The day of the test

The MCUG takes place in the Medical Imaging department. It is performed by a doctor specialising in imaging tests and a radiographer who will take the pictures. You are welcome to be with your child during the test although if you are pregnant you will have to stand behind a protective screen. Your child will be able to see and hear you from there. The radiographer taking the pictures will explain that there is a slight risk to you and your child of receiving a small dose of radiation. They will answer any questions you may have.

## The scan itself

- Your child lies on the table. His or her genital area is cleaned and covered with towels.
- A catheter is placed by the doctor through the opening where your baby or child passes urine and into the bladder. He or she may feel uncomfortable, but this should not hurt.
- The doctor may then test the urine to look for signs of a current urine infection.
- A small amount of contrast dye is put through the catheter into the bladder.
- A machine directs x-rays at different angles into the bladder while your child's bladder fills and empties. The images can be seen on a screen.
- The flow of urine can be seen because of the contrast dye. The images show whether and where urine is being blocked, and whether urine passes back up towards the kidneys.

- Your child may need to change positions, so your doctor can get different views.

## What to expect afterwards

Your child can usually go home straight away after the test. Contact your doctor if your child has:

- blood in his or her urine for more than two days – the urine may look red (like blackcurrant squash) or brown (like a cola drink)
- pain in the lower part of his or her tummy
- signs of a urinary tract infection – such as a fever (temperature over 38°C), being sick, feeling tired or irritable, having pain or a stinging/burning feeling when passing urine, going to the toilet more often than usual or holding on because it is painful to go, or wetting the bed or themselves more often than usual.

## What will happen to the results?

We aim to report examinations, as soon as possible. Results will be sent to the Doctor who referred you for the investigation, as they may need further review and therefore it could be approximately 20 days before you are contacted by your Doctor.

## Cancelling your appointment

If you are unable to attend your appointment, we would be grateful if you could contact us on **01392 402336 selecting option one, option six** as soon as possible. We can then offer your original appointment to another patient. A further date and time will then be arranged for you. Please be advised that if you fail to attend your appointment, it may be necessary to remove you from the radiology waiting list.

**Please note: If you have had D&V (diarrhoea and vomiting) you will need to contact us to rebook your appointment unless you have been clear for the past 48 hours**

## Contact us

If you have any queries about the information in this letter please contact the Medical Imaging Department on **01392 402336** or your Consultant Paediatrician via their secretary.

## How to get to the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital at Wonford

### Park & Ride

Our Dartline PR3 Park & Ride bus is quick and not expensive.

It runs from Wonford Hospital to Digby. Digby is near Tesco, the railway station and junction 30 of the M5. There are signs along some of the main roads into Exeter pointing to the RD&E park and ride.

The park and ride service runs from Monday - Friday. **There is no service at the weekend.**

### By bus

Stagecoach buses H Service run to Wonford Hospital from the high street in the city centre Monday to Saturday. Limited Sunday service. They also run to Wonford Hospital from the Broadfields area.

Stagecoach buses from Exmouth (57), Dawlish (2), Torbay (X46), Teignmouth (2) and Plymouth (X38) stop next to the hospital on Barrack Road.

First Southern National bus X53 from Weymouth, Seaton, Beer and Sidford stops next to the hospital on Barrack Road. Turner's Tours bus 369 from Chulmleigh, Lapford, Morchard Bishop and Crediton stops next to the hospital on Barrack Road and outside the main front entrance of the hospital.

### By car

Follow signposts to the hospital from most of the main routes into Exeter. Follow signposts in the hospital grounds to our car parks.

Car parking is by pay & display, so please bring change.

The number of spaces is limited, so please leave plenty of time to find a space.

### **Using Sat Nav to find us?**

Tap in postcode: EX2 5DW for RD&E Wonford

For more information on how to get to the hospital, please use the following website:

**[www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/patients/where](http://www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/patients/where)**

For more information on the Medical Imaging Department, please visit our website:

**[www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/patients/services/medical-imaging](http://www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/patients/services/medical-imaging)**

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