

## Having a urethrogram

X-Ray Department  
Tel: 01271 311869

### Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at [ndht.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ndht.pals@nhs.net).

### What is an urethrogram?

This is an X-ray test to take pictures of the water pipe (urethra) that passes through the penis and leads to the bladder.

### What does it involve?

The purpose of this test is to introduce a dye containing iodine into the bladder to get pictures of the urethra.

To do this, we place a catheter into the penis. Dye is injected through the catheter whilst pictures are taken. During the test we may ask you to try and pass water to get some further pictures.

### How long will it take?

The test usually takes 15 minutes.

### What preparations are needed?

No special preparations are needed although you are advised to empty your bladder when you arrive at the hospital.

### What about my general health?

Please contact the X-Ray Department on 01271 311869, Monday to Friday, between 9am and 5pm, for advice if you –

- think you may be allergic to iodine or any of the X-ray dyes used,
- have an artificial heart valve, or have been advised that you need antibiotics before routine dental work (endocarditis prophylaxis). You may need an antibiotic injection before the test. One of the antibiotics we use is Penicillin. If you are allergic to Penicillin, please tell us when you telephone.

- have had an operation on the urethra within the last 2 weeks and/or have an offensive urethral discharge.

## Are there any side effects?

The test may be a little uncomfortable, but we would not normally expect you to experience any side effects. Occasionally after the test, you may have some discomfort on passing urine. Very occasionally there is a little bleeding from the urethra.

## Possible complications

Occasionally some people have an allergic reaction to the dye used during the test. We have facilities in the department and the ward to deal with this, if it happens.

Very occasionally an infection can occur after the test. Please contact your GP if you have any of the following after you get home –

- High temperature
- Flu-like symptoms
- Shivering
- Difficulty passing urine
- Bleeding that is causing you concern

## Further information

If you have any further questions or concerns about your urethrogram, please contact X-Ray Department on **01271 311869** between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

### PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern, call 01271 314090 or email [ndht.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ndht.pals@nhs.net). You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

## Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

'Care Opinion' comments forms are on all wards or online at [www.careopinion.org.uk](http://www.careopinion.org.uk).

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust  
Raleigh Park, Barnstaple  
Devon EX31 4JB  
Tel. 01271 322577  
[www.northdevonhealth.nhs.uk](http://www.northdevonhealth.nhs.uk)

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Tel: 01271 313970 / email: [ndht.contactus@nhs.net](mailto:ndht.contactus@nhs.net)