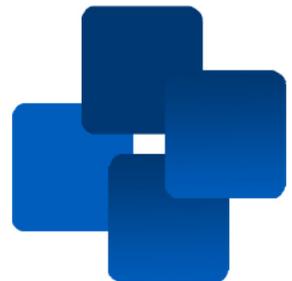


Patient Information

Straight to Test

Colorectal Telephone Assessment

Endoscopy Centre



Introduction

Your doctor has referred you to the specialist **Straight to Test** (STT) team. This leaflet has been developed to help explain what to expect when you are contacted by us and what follows when you attend the hospital for your test/appointments.

Why have I been referred to the hospital?

Your GP has referred you to the hospital on a 'suspected cancer two week wait pathway'. This is because you may have a problem with your bowels that means your symptoms need investigating more closely. We understand that bowels can often be an embarrassing subject to talk about. The Straight to Test team are here to discuss your symptoms and answer any questions you may have.

What happens now?

Your GP has referred you to the Straight to Test service, you will receive:

- a telephone call to book a 30 minute telephone consultation. This will happen within 48 hours from GP referral, **or**
- if you are unavailable for the telephone consultation, an outpatient appointment will be booked for you within 14 days from the GP referral.

What test am I likely to have?

There are different tests available which can give us different information your bowel. Our STT team will inform you during the telephone assessment which test will be the most appropriate for you.

The most common tests/procedures performed at the New QEII or Lister Hospital are:

- **Flexible Sigmoidoscopy** - a thin flexible endoscope is inserted into the bowel via the back passage to examine the lower end of the large bowel.
- **Colonoscopy** - a thin flexible endoscope is inserted into the bowel via the back passage to examine the whole of the large bowel.

A sedative injection is available for these tests if required. You will need a responsible adult to collect you from the Endoscopy Unit as you will not be able to drive for 24 hours after sedation. Alternatively, Entonox is also available for these procedures which will allow you to drive 30 minutes after the procedure.

If you are to have a flexible sigmoidoscopy or a colonoscopy, we will contact you with a date and time.

- **CT Colonography** - sometimes called a virtual colonoscopy. This is a computerised scan where you need to drink a contrast dye to produce very detailed pictures of the inside of the colon and rectum.

If you are having a CT colonography you will be asked to attend the radiology department to book a date for this. The radiology department will give you instructions for the procedure.

What happens if I'm to have one of the procedures?

For all of these tests you will have to take a strong laxative. This is to make sure your bowels are empty to allow good views during your procedure.

This will be explained to you before you attend your appointment for the procedure.

Prescription

The prescription for the bowel preparation for each of the procedures will be sent to you by post or you can collect it from the Endoscopy Unit at Lister Hospital. You will then need to take the prescription to the Lister or New QEII Hospital pharmacy to collect the bowel preparation.

What happens after the procedure?

If the results of your procedure are normal you will be discharged from Endoscopy, otherwise you will be offered a follow-up outpatient appointment to discuss any findings.

A letter will be sent to your GP confirming the outcome of the investigation.

Questions

Please talk to us if you would like more information or have any questions or concerns.

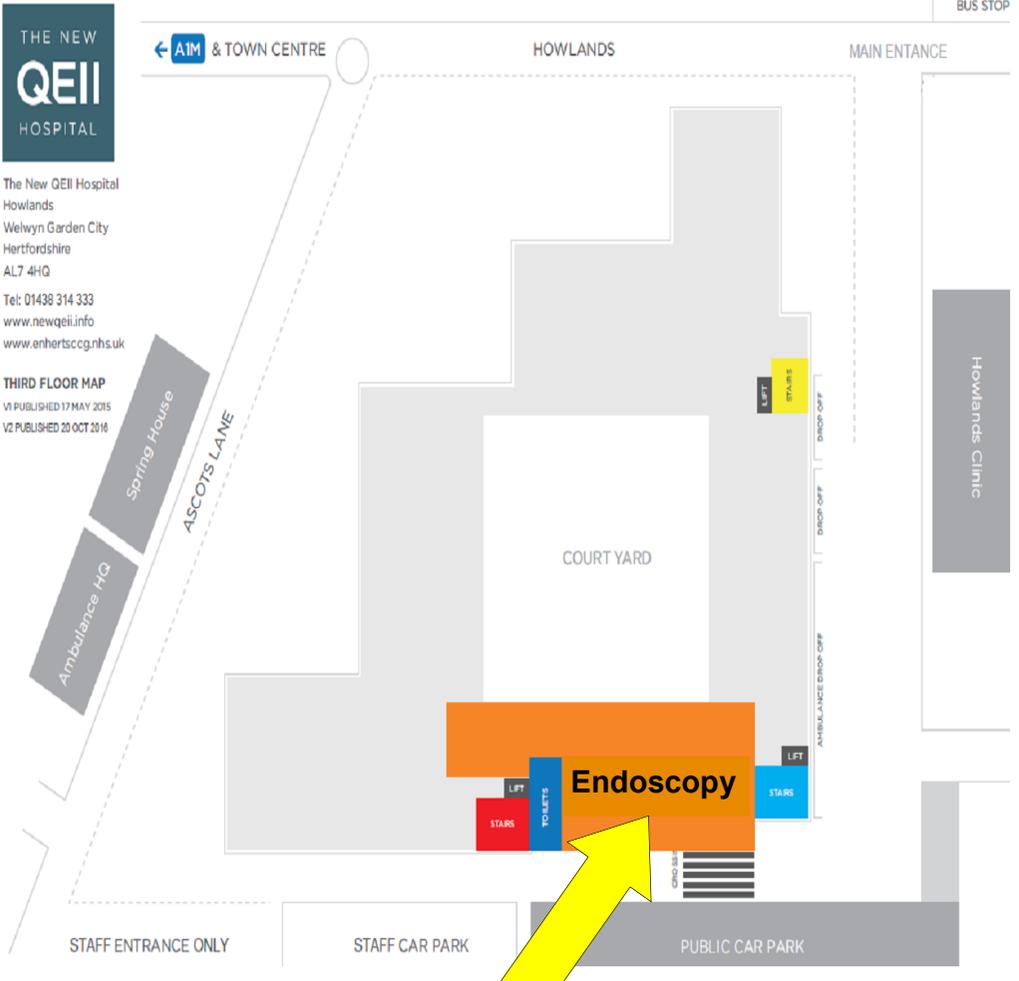
Please use this space to write down any questions you may like to ask:

Site Map - Lister Hospital

We are here - Endoscopy and Day Surgery Centre



Site Map - New QEII Hospital, 3rd Floor



We are here

Both site maps can be found on our Trust website:
www.enherts-tr.nhs.uk

Useful Contact Details

Endoscopy Day Surgery Unit
Lister Hospital
Coreys Mill Lane
Stevenage
Hertfordshire SG1 4AB

☎ 01438 285470

Please call the number above for any enquires about this service.

www.enherths-tr.nhs.uk

You can request this
information in a different
format or another language.

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