



**East and North Hertfordshire**  
NHS Trust

## **Assessment Clinic for Straight to Test (STT)**

**Lister Hospital**

Coreys Mill Lane,  
Stevenage,  
Hertfordshire,  
SG1 4AB

**QEII Hospital**

Howlands  
Welwyn Garden City  
Hertfordshire  
AL7 4HQ

**01438 285470**

**Please call the above numbers for any enquiries  
about the service**

# Colorectal Telephone Assessment Clinic

This booklet has been prepared for your information. It will explain what will happen now that your doctor has referred you to the Specialist Straight to Test team.

If there are words that you do not understand please refer to the glossary of terms at the back of this booklet.

## Why have I been referred?

Your GP has referred you on what we call a suspected cancer two week wait pathway, as they believe that you may have a problem with your bowels and have referred you to the hospital so that we can investigate your symptoms more closely.

We understand that bowels can often be an embarrassing subject and difficult to talk about, but the Straight to Test team are used to talking about it. So, try not to feel embarrassed or uncomfortable when discussing your symptoms or asking any questions.

This booklet contains some of the questions you may have about your referral. It will also explain what to expect when you are contacted by us and what follows when you attend the hospital for your test/appointments.

## What will happen now?

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

- a text message to book a 30 minute telephone consultation with the specialist nurse, at an agreed time. This will happen within 48 hours from your GP referral.
- or; you will get a phone call to book a time for your 30 minutes telephone consultation. This will happen within 48 hours from GP referral (if text service not available)
- or; an outpatient appointment will be arranged for further discussion with a doctor within 14 days.

**If you are unavailable for the telephone consultation an outpatient appointment will be booked for you within 14 days from the GP referral. However, our advice is to agree to the offer of the telephone assessment so that we get you the most appropriate test in the shortest time.**

## What test am I likely to need?

Different tests give us different information about you and your bowel. Our team will inform you during the telephone assessment what will best for you.

The most common tests performed are:

1. Flexible Sigmoidoscopy
2. Colonoscopy
3. CT Colonography

**You can find a brief description of those tests at the back of this booklet.**

## What happens when I'm booked for any of the above procedures?

If you need to have a Colonoscopy or a Flexible Sigmoidoscopy we will contact you with a date and time. You will require bowel preparation for the procedure to be carried out; this is to increase visibility during your investigation.

Please collect the bowel preparation from the endoscopy unit at Lister or QE2 and instructions on how to administer it, this will need to be collected within 48 hours of the telephone assessment. There is a free drop off point at the Lister for you to leave your car for 15 minutes whilst you collect your bowel preparation.

If you need to have a CT Colonography, you will need to collect your prescription and bowel preparation from the endoscopy unit at the Lister Hospital and walk round to the Radiology department to be booked for a CT scan date. The Radiology department will give you all the instruction for the procedure.

You may need to attend an outpatient appointment following your test. A follow up appointment will be arranged for you as quickly as possible.

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## Glossary of terms

**Colonoscopy** – a thin flexible telescope with a camera on the end that is inserted into the bowel via the back passage to examine the whole of the large bowel. We will send you strong laxatives to take the day before this test. A sedative injection is available for this test if required.

**Flexible Sigmoidoscopy** - a thin flexible telescope with a camera on the end that is inserted into the bowel via the back passage to examine the lower end of the large bowel.

**CT Colonography** – sometimes called virtual colonoscopy. This is a specialised CT scan that uses a CT scanner to produce very detailed pictures of the inside of the colon and rectum. The day before the test you will have to take a drink containing dye or perhaps a strong laxative.

## Help us to help you

We would welcome any comments from you regarding your stay in our department, and on this Information booklet. Please use the form provided and fill in a satisfaction survey when asked.



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## LISTER HOSPITAL SITE MAP



