

# SMALL BOWEL SERIES



## Preparation Information Sheet

### **SMALL BOWEL SERIES**

**What is it:**

An x-ray examination of your small intestines.

**Preparation:**

No food for 12 hours. Drink water up to 2 hours before the examination as needed for thirst.

**What happens:**

You will change into a gown. You drink 750mls of a dilute barium suspension which is very dense and lets us see your small bowel on x-rays. Pictures are taken at intervals after you have drunk the barium, until the whole of your small bowel has been seen. Various pictures are taken from different views with you lying down, some with compression of particular parts of your small bowel to see it more clearly. Between the series of x-rays, you will sit up or walk around to hurry up the emptying of your stomach.

**How long does it take:**

1-4 hours depending on how quickly the barium flows through your small bowel.

**After your examination:**

Drink lots of fluids and have a high fibre diet for 2-3 days to flush the barium out of your large bowel, otherwise it will tend to cause constipation.

**Your images and report:**

After your examination, you will be given a copy of the most pertinent images from your study. A report will be given to you with the images, or sent directly back to your referring doctor by fax or email. We will store digital copies of all studies on our secure database for comparison with any future examinations.

Please bring any previous x-rays with you for comparison.

It is important that you return to your doctor with your examination results. Whether they are normal or abnormal, your doctor needs to know promptly so that a management plan can be formulated.

### **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR DIABETICS:**

If your examination requires fasting, then book an early morning appointment and have your breakfast and diabetic medication after the examination.