Your First appointment at the 2 week wait colorectal clinic

**If you decide not to attend this appointment please contact us on
0121 424 5000 so that we can give the appointment to someone else.**

Your GP has asked us to see you within 2 weeks because he/she thinks that your symptoms may possibly be due to bowel cancer. So please make every effort to attend for everyone's peace of mind.

Please note that the vast majority (9/10) patients who attend this clinic are found not to have cancer.

What will happen at this appointment?

In the clinic the doctor will ask you questions about your bowel complaint. The doctor will then carry out a physical examination which will include an examination of your back passage.

Examination of the back passage

This is an important part of the examination. This examination is carried out using two telescopes called a sigmoidoscope and proctoscope. This examination usually takes about 2 minutes. Very occasionally a sample (biopsy) is taken. This biopsy is usually painless.

It is important to note that if a biopsy has been taken you may notice some bleeding when you go to the toilet. This usually settles down quickly. Often it is found at this stage you are suffering from piles, you may be offered treatment for these.

Once your physical examination is completed the doctor will discuss the findings with you. However it may not be possible to make a diagnosis during this first visit.
If this is the case the doctor will discuss further investigations with you, either:

- Investigations involving an examination of the bowel with telescopes (Endoscopy).
- Investigations using X-rays to examine the bowel.

Both these investigations need some form of bowel preparation before they can be carried out. This is why they are not carried out at the first visit. Appointments will be made for you to come back to hospital for these investigations to be carried out.

The doctor will decide which type of investigation is the most appropriate for you to undergo and will make arrangements for this to happen. Further information about the investigation you will undergo will be sent to you with your appointment.

What happens next?
Once you have had your investigations you may be given another appointment to come back to see the doctor to discuss the results and any treatment that may be necessary.

Sometimes you doctor will write to you and your GP about the result when no further appointment is required.

Our commitment to confidentiality
We keep personal and clinical information about you to ensure you receive appropriate care and treatment. Everyone working in the NHS has a legal duty to keep information about you confidential.

We will share information with other parts of the NHS to support your healthcare needs, and we will inform your GP of your progress unless you ask us not to. If we need to share information that identifies you with other organisations we will ask for your consent. You can help us by pointing out any information in your records which is wrong or needs updating.

Dear Patient
We welcome your views on what you liked and suggestions for how things could be improved at this hospital. If you would like to tell us and others about your experience please make your comments through one of the following sites:

- NHS Choice:-   www.nhs.uk
- Patient Opinion:-   www.patientopinion.org.uk
- I want great care:-   www.iwantgreatcare.org (Here you can leave feedback about your doctor)

Be helpful and respectful: think about what people might want to know about this hospital or how your experiences might benefit others. Remember your words must be polite and respectful, and you cannot name individuals on the NHS Choice or Patient Opinion sites.

If you have any questions you may want to ask about your condition or treatment, or anything you do not understand or wish to know more about, write them down and your doctor will be more than happy to try and answer them for you.