

Division of Imaging

## Information for Patients

# A Guide To Having a Micturating Cystogram (MCU)

The doctors involved in your child's care have requested this examination as the most appropriate test to help diagnose your child's problem. We hope you find this leaflet helpful in explaining the procedure.

## What is an MCU

An MCU is a special X-ray test to show your child's bladder and urinary system (water works) and how it works.

## What Should Be Done Before The Test?

Your child will need antibiotics for 48 hours before the procedure and for 3 days afterwards. This will normally be prescribed by the doctor who has sent your child for the test.

If your child is not prescribed any antibiotics, please contact your GP at least a week before the appointment to arrange a prescription.

## Can I Be With My Child During The Test?

You are more than welcome to be with your child throughout the test, unless you are pregnant.

## What happens during the Test?

- A Radiographer will be performing your examination and you will be asked to undress your child and they may be asked to put on a gown. This is to make sure that no buttons or zips from their clothes show on the X-ray pictures.
- Your child will need to lie on the X-ray bed throughout the test. Over the bed is an X-ray machine.
- To make sure that your child's urinary system shows up on the X-ray images we will need to put some X-ray dye into their bladder.
- To get this dye into the bladder, a small, soft tube needs to be put into the hole where your child passes urine (wee) from. This may be a little uncomfortable, but to help we use a numbing gel. It may help if your child has their bottle or dummy at this stage.
- Once the tube is in place we will start to fill the bladder with dye and X-ray images will be taken as the bladder fills.
- When your child's bladder is full they will need to pass urine. At this stage the tube will gently be removed and some final X-ray images will be taken. This is done to look at how the bladder is working.

The test is now completed. Your child can get dressed and can eat and drink as normal.

The radiographer will give you a leaflet explaining any required changes to your child's medication before you leave.

## Will I feel any pain?

You cannot feel x-rays, so the procedure itself is painless. However, it is important to get into the correct position. Holding this position / lying on a table may, for some people, feel uncomfortable, but for the majority of patients this is not the case.

## Are there any risks with this examination?

### Radiation risk

Everyone is exposed to ionising radiation (for example from gamma rays from space, air travel, natural radiation from the ground) all the time. This is one of the causes of cancer and other illnesses. This test will give your child a small extra dose of ionising radiation.

Your doctors have taken this into account when asking your child to have this test and believe that this the best test for you or your child.

Patients of 12 years and over will be asked to tell us the first day of their last menstrual period so that we can avoid giving radiation to an unborn baby unless it is

absolutely necessary for the test to work. This is because the risk is slightly greater for unborn children.

### **Contrast risk**

We will need to give you contrast dye to make areas of your body show up more clearly.

The radiographers will complete a checklist to ensure it is safe for you to have the dye and you will be asked to sign this form as a consent, the specific side effects are documented on the checklists that you complete.

The contrast dye that is sometimes used can cause allergic reactions however the staff available will be checking for any risks before we proceed.

### **Help and support in the department**

If you or child have any medical problem which you feel may affect your safety in the department, or if you feel you may need any assistance, please let us know when you arrive.

### **Do I need to give my permission (consent)?**

The radiographer will ask you if you are happy for the examination to go ahead. This is called verbal consent and might only involve the radiographer checking your child is booked for the correct examination.

If you or your child do not wish to have the examination or are undecided, please ask the radiographer / sonographer / mammographer so that they can answer any questions you may have.

Remember, it is your decision. You can change your mind at any time and your wishes will be respected.

However, not having the examination may delay your diagnosis as the referring clinician may not have all the needed information.

### **How long will it take?**

The whole procedure takes about 30 minutes, although this can vary slightly.

## When will we get the results?

All the X-rays are looked at by the Radiologist (a doctor who reports X-rays). They will send the results to the doctor who arranged the test for you.

Your doctor will explain the results to you when you attend for your next appointment with them, or may alternatively write to you.

## What should I do if there is a problem?

If you feel your child's condition has changed, or you need further medical advice before receiving the results/after leaving the hospital, please make an appointment with the doctor that referred your child, or in an emergency, go to your nearest Emergency Department (ED).

## How can I provide feedback for the appointment I have attended today?

The Division of Imaging welcomes feedback from all our patients. We actively take part in the Friends and Family Test and we complete a patient experience questionnaire every month to obtain feedback on the experiences you have had. Please speak to a member of staff regarding the feedback or there are posters within the department with QR codes so you can complete these online.

## Contact us

For contact information please refer to your appointment letter or if you are an inpatient please direct your queries to one of the medical staff on the ward

### Language and accessible support services:

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch.

### Your comments and concerns

If you would like to provide feedback you can:

- Ask to speak to the department lead / manager.
- Write to us: Patient Advice and Liaison Services, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Cobbett House, Manchester Royal Infirmary, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9WL.
- Log onto the Patient Opinion website [www.patientopinion.org.uk/](http://www.patientopinion.org.uk/) click on 'Tell your Story'

### If you would like to discuss a concern or make a complaint:

Ask to speak to the department manager – they may be able to help straight away. Inpatients can speak to a senior nurse or manager by contacting the Tell Us Today service on (0161) 701 1999.

Contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on (0161) 276 8686 email: [pals@mft.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@mft.nhs.uk). Ask for our information leaflet.

We welcome your feedback so we can continue to improve our services.

### NHS 111

This service offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day.

Telephone: 111, 24 hours a day

Website: [www.111.nhs.uk](http://www.111.nhs.uk)