

## Department of Radiology

# Barium Examination Aftercare

Now that your Barium Swallow/Meal/Small bowel follow through examination is completed – you may find the following points useful:

### IMPORTANT

Your results will be sent to the hospital consultant who requested the examination. The consultant will contact you in due course; this may take up to 3 weeks. All enquiries regarding results should be directed to your consultant's secretary. If your GP requested the examination, please contact them to receive your results (allow 7 working days).

- You may return to your normal diet and medication.
- Any barium left in your bowel will pass over the next few days. It can cause constipation. To reduce this effect, drink plenty of fluids as part of your normal habit. You may take a laxative if this is part of your normal routine.
- You may notice a white powder in your toilet after flushing. To remove this residual barium, loosen with a toilet brush before flushing.
- **Small bowel follow through patients** may experience diarrhoea soon after the examination. Please bear this in mind before leaving the Department.
- **Barium meal patients** - If you experience painful red eyes over the next 24 hours, this could be a reaction to the anti-spasmodic injection that you may have been given during the examination. Contact your GP or The Emergency Department (out of hours) immediately.

**Please contact your Consultant / doctor who referred you for your results.**

**If you have any queries can contact the Radiology Department on:**

**Telephone: 01603 286103 (9.00 am to 4.30 pm)**

**Website: <http://www.nnuh.nhs.uk/departments/radiology-nnuh/barium-procedures/>**

