We can provide interpreters for a variety of languages, information in larger print or other formats (e.g. audio) - please call us on 01932 723553.
To use the Text Relay service, prefix all numbers with 18001.
Further Information
We endeavour to provide an excellent service at all times, but should you have any concerns please, in the first instance, raise these with the Matron, Senior Nurse or Manager on duty. If they cannot resolve your concern, please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01932 723553 or email pals@asph.nhs.uk. If you remain concerned, PALS can also advise upon how to make a formal complaint.
Where can I obtain more information?

The Royal College of Radiologists’ web site www.goingfora.com/radiology contains useful general information about x-ray departments, equipment and radiation which may interest you.

What is an IVU?

Your doctor has referred you to the x-ray department for an IVU examination (intravenous urogram.) This is sometimes also called an IVP. It is a special x-ray examination to outline the urinary tract which includes the kidneys, ureters and bladder. The examination will take approximately 1 hour.

On arrival in the x-ray department, please report to the reception desk.

Preparing for an IVU

You will be asked not to eat or drink anything for 6 hours before to allow good visualisation of your urinary system.

If you are diabetic please telephone the Diabetes Specialist Nurse before carrying out these instructions. The telephone number is 01932 722789.

If you are treated with METFORMIN you will need to stop these tablets for one day before and 3 days after your IVU.

Please tell the Radiographer before the examination if you suffer from asthma or any allergies.

If you take tablets or medicines, you may take these at your usual time with a small mouthful of water if necessary.
If you are asthmatic and use a ventolin inhaler please bring this with you.

You will be collected from the waiting area and then asked to prepare for the x-ray by emptying your bladder. You will be asked to undress and put on an x-ray gown. Please bring a dressing gown for your own use, since these are not supplied by the hospital. You will then be asked to lie on your back on an x-ray table.

What will happen?

After initial x-rays have been taken, you will be given an injection of dye (iodine based contrast medium) into a vein in your arm. This dye outlines your kidneys, ureters and bladder. Following the injection, the radiographer will take a timed series of x-rays.

You will pass the dye out of your body naturally in your urine. As the dye is colourless you will not notice.

Are there any side effects?

The dye injection contains iodine. The injection can occasionally make you feel hot and uncomfortable. The feeling is very temporary and passes off after a few minutes. Very occasionally patients develop a rash which disappears within a few hours. The chance of this happening is less than 1 in 1000 cases.

The incidence of serious reaction is rare and is estimated to be substantially less than 1 in 10,000 cases. Our staff are fully trained to recognise and deal with such an emergency and equipment is on hand in the department.

Are there any risks from Radiation?

The radiation risk from this examination is small. The National Radiological Protection Board and Royal College of Radiologists advise that it is equivalent to between 1 and 4 years of the background radiation dose that we receive throughout our lives.

Results

A radiologist will study all the pictures which have been taken and send a report to the doctor who requested the IVU. You will need to make an appointment to see this doctor to discuss the findings if you do not already have a follow up appointment arranged.

Any Questions

If you have any questions about this examination, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01932 722501.