

After your investigations you will be informed of the results and any further management.

What happens at a clinic appointment?

- At the clinic you will be seen either by a Doctor or a Specialist Nurse.
- You will be asked to give details about your symptoms and you will be examined.
- The examination will include feeling your abdomen and possibly examination of your back passage with a gloved finger.
- After your examination is over, the doctor or nurse will discuss the findings with you. It may be necessary to arrange some further investigations in order to make a diagnosis.

Appointment Changes

If you need to cancel or change your appointment please telephone the number on your appointment card or letter. This may allow us to give your appointment time to another patient.

This document can be made available in other languages and formats on request.

Contact

NHS Tayside Communications Department
on 01382 424138.

Developed by Colorectal Service Team

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Tayside Colorectal Service

Patient Information and Advice

Ninewells Hospital, Dundee

Tel: 01382 632493

Perth Royal Infirmary

Tel: 01738 473610

Stracathro Hospital

Tel: 01356 665012

The aim of this leaflet is to give you information and advice about the Tayside Colorectal Service as your G.P. has referred you to further investigate your bowel symptoms.

What happens next?

Your referral letter will be sent to the Colorectal Service Team, based at Ninewells Hospital who will decide whether you need to be seen at a clinic or if you should attend for an investigation in the first instance. The priority this appointment is given is dependent on the information given by your G.P.

An appointment will be sent to you directly informing you where your consultation or investigation is to be carried out, either at Ninewells Hospital, P.R.I. or Stracathro Hospital. It is not uncommon for more than one investigation to be arranged possibly on the same visit.

What investigations may be carried out?

Some of the investigations that may be carried out are Colonoscopy, Flexible Sigmoidoscopy, and / or a Barium Enema X-ray.

Both you and your G.P. will be kept informed at all times during your care.

What happens at an investigation appointment?

Colonoscopy

- A Colonoscopy investigation inspects the whole of the large bowel using a longer flexible telescope.
- Your bowel needs to be prepared with some laxatives for this and you would receive an appointment with full instructions beforehand. You would be given a sedative injection that will make the procedure more comfortable.

- After the procedure the doctor will discuss the findings and may arrange a further test, clinic visit or discharge you back to the care of your G.P.

Your G.P. will be sent a copy of the report.

Flexible Sigmoidoscopy

- A Flexible Sigmoidoscopy, inspects the lower part of your bowel using a flexible telescope with a light.
- Your bowel needs to be prepared with some laxatives for this. You would receive an appointment with full instructions beforehand.
- If necessary, small samples of the lining of the bowel (biopsy) can be taken for examination under the microscope.
- After the procedure the Endoscopist will discuss the findings and may arrange a further clinic visit, investigation, perhaps on the same day, or discharge you back to the care of your G.P.

Your G.P. will be sent a copy of the report.

Barium Enema X-ray

- A Barium Enema is a common X-ray for bowel problems. A small tube is passed into your back passage and some liquid suspension is poured through the tube. Some air is also passed down the tube and you will be asked to change your position several times.
- During this procedure several X-ray pictures are taken.
- Your bowels need to be prepared for this which you may already have had for a preceding flexible sigmoidoscopy examination. You would be advised with your appointment.

Your G.P. will be sent a copy of the report.