

Surgery and Cancer Division – General Surgery

Flexible Sigmoidoscopy

Introduction

The Covid pandemic has had a significant impact on the NHS ability to provide routine elective services. We recognise that patients are waiting longer than we would all like and it is not always possible to identify when treatment will take place. This document provides you with information on how you can support yourself while waiting to attend the hospital. The guidance has been written by clinicians who are responsible for your care.

Guidance for Patients

Your GP/ Consultant has recommended a Flexible sigmoidoscopy, a procedure to look at the left side of the large bowel using a thin, flexible camera (endoscope)

Common reasons for a camera test include:

Bright red rectal bleeding, previous surgery, changes to your bowel habit and for the surveillance for bowel conditions.

While waiting for your procedure your doctor may recommend alternative treatment to support your symptoms. This may include lifestyle and diet changes or medication including laxative preparation for this.

You will be provided with a written information leaflet that details specific instructions relating to your Flexible Sigmoidoscopy and your medications.

What should I do if my health is deteriorating?

If you feel you are becoming more unwell, **please contact your GP or NHS 111 for medical review in the first instance**. They will be able to advise if this is something they can support you with during your wait, or they will be able to direct you to the appropriate service to determine a management plan.

Contact Us

Appointments - Please contact the Treatment Centre Schedulers Tel 01270 277980 Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.00pm

Other urgent advice - Please contact your GP or the Consultant's secretary at Leighton Hospital or email: MCHTPatientHelpline@mcht.nhs.uk