

There are a number of different procedures which are part of the Urology specialty. Below is guidance for one specific procedure. Further information about other common procedures can be found through the below link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/>

Cystoscopy procedures

A cystoscopy is a procedure to look inside the bladder using a thin camera called a cystoscope. A cystoscope is inserted into the urethra (the tube that carries pee out of the body) and passed into the bladder to allow a doctor or nurse to see inside. Small surgical instruments can also be passed down the cystoscope to treat some bladder problems at the same time.

There are 2 types of cystoscopy:

- **flexible cystoscopy** – a thin (about the width of a pencil), bendy cystoscope is used, and you stay awake while it's carried out
- **rigid cystoscopy** – a slightly wider cystoscope that does not bend is used, and you're either put to sleep or the lower half of your body is numbed while it's carried out

A cystoscopy can be used to look for and treat problems in the bladder or urethra for example, it can be used to:

- check for the cause of problems such as blood in pee, frequent urinary tract infections (UTIs), problems peeing, and long-lasting pelvic pain
- remove a sample of tissue for testing in a laboratory (a biopsy) to check for problems such as bladder cancer
- carry out treatments, such as removing bladder stones, inserting or removing a stent (a small tube used to treat blockages), and injecting medicine into the bladder

To find out more about what to expect during your procedure, please review the appropriate NHS Conditions website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cystoscopy/>