



Having a Colonoscopy A Plain English Story

Una gets a letter with the result of her BowelScreen test.
The BowelScreen test showed some blood in Una's poo.

Una needs to have a special test at the hospital called a colonoscopy.

Most people do not need to stay at the hospital overnight when they have this test.

Una is worried.

She talks to her friend Ann about the colonoscopy.

Together, they look at information about this test.

A nurse phones Una to organise a date for the colonoscopy.
The nurse tells Una where to go for her test.

The nurse asks Una for some information about her health
and medication.

The nurse answers any questions that Una has about the
colonoscopy.

The nurse tells Una how to get ready for the test.

The nurse tells Una if she can eat and drink before the test.

The nurse tells Una if she will need to stay overnight.

A special medicine is sent to Una.

Una has to take this medicine the day before or the morning of the colonoscopy.

This medicine will empty her bowel so the doctor can see it clearly during the test.

Una reads the information carefully.

Una can ask for help if she wants.

It is important to take this medicine properly.

On the day of the test, Una and her friend Ann go to the hospital.

There is parking at the hospital.

Una and Ann go to the reception desk in the Endoscopy Unit.

Una gives her name to the person at the desk.

Una and Ann sit in the waiting room.

A nurse calls Una's name.

The nurse brings Una to a small area called a cubicle.

Una changes into a gown.

Una lies on a trolley bed.

The nurse talks to her about the colonoscopy.

Una can ask questions if she wants.

The nurse gives Una a name tag. This goes on her wrist.

Then, the nurse takes Una's blood pressure.

The nurse checks Una's oxygen.

The nurse puts a small clip on Una's finger for a few seconds.

This does not hurt.

The nurse puts Una's things in a bag to keep them safe.

The nurse puts them under the trolley bed.

A doctor or nurse comes to talk to Una before the colonoscopy.

Una is given a consent form.

She decides to go ahead with the colonoscopy and signs the form.

A doctor or nurse gives Una an injection to help her relax.

This will make her feel sleepy.

Una will not remember much about the test when she wakes up.

Una is moved on the trolley bed to the room for the colonoscopy.

She lies on her side on the trolley bed.

Machines will check Una's heart and breathing during the colonoscopy.

A thin tube is passed into Una's bottom.

Una's bowel is gently filled with air so it can be seen clearly. This might give Una a pain in her tummy when she wakes up.

There is a camera on the end of the tube. It shows pictures of the inside of the bowel. The doctor and nurses can see these on a screen.

The doctor or nurse might take a tiny piece from Una's bowel.

This will be sent to a laboratory for testing.

If Una has small lumps called polyps in her bowel, they will be taken out.

When the colonoscopy is over, Una is taken back to the cubicle.

She stays on the trolley bed.

After about 30 minutes, Una is able to sit up.

She can have a drink and some toast.

The doctor or nurse talks to Una after the test.

They will tell Una if any tiny pieces of bowel or polyps are taken out.

Una will get all her results in a few weeks.

Una's friend Ann will bring her home.

It is important to have someone with you after the colonoscopy in case you feel sleepy.

You cannot drive home.

More information



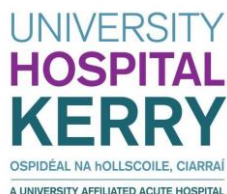
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Pauline Dennigan Photography.



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An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

