



Having a CT Colonography

A Plain English Story

Joe gets a call from a nurse, called a pre-assessment nurse. The call is about a bowel test called a CT colonography.

The nurse talks to Joe about the test and explains what will happen during the test.

The nurse asks Joe about his health and about any medication he takes. Joe can ask questions too.

The nurse tells Joe about special medicines. He will need to take these before the CT colonography so his bowel can be seen clearly.

The nurse will tell him how to get the medicines and take them.

The medicines will empty Joe's bowel so it can be seen clearly during the test.

Joe will need to follow the instructions carefully and stay close to the toilet. The medicines will give Joe diarrhoea.

The nurse will tell Joe what he can eat and drink before the test.

Joe must follow a clear liquid diet the day before the test. On the day of the test, Joe cannot eat or drink anything before the test.

Joe gets a letter from BowelScreen.

The letter tells him about his CT colonography appointment. The letter tells Joe where to go for the CT colonography, and when to go.

The appointment will take about an hour.

The letter tells Joe what to do before the appointment.

On the day of the appointment, Joe goes to the hospital.

There is accessible parking at the hospital if Joe drives to his appointment.

Joe may be able to get public transport to and from his appointment.

Joe goes to the reception desk in the Radiology Department.

He gives his name to the person at the desk.

Joe waits in the waiting area.

He can bring someone with him for support if he wants.

Joe's name is called, and he moves to the next waiting area.

A radiographer comes to talk to Joe and check his information.

A nurse or radiographer brings Joe to a room.

Joe gets a cannula in his arm.

Joe will be given an injection before the test.

Joe is taken to a room for the CT colonography.

Joe puts on a gown.

He has privacy to get undressed.

He takes off his coat and jumper and the clothes on his bottom half.

A radiographer talks to Joe about the CT colonography test.

Joe can ask questions.

Joe signs a consent form.

This means he agrees to have the test.

Joe lies down on the bed at the CT scanner.

If you are a wheelchair user or you have mobility difficulties, a hoist can be used to move you to the scanner.

The radiographer or doctor gives Joe an injection to relax his bowel.

Joe lies on his side.

The radiographer or doctor puts a small tube into Joe's bottom.

This does not hurt.

Gas goes through the tube into Joe's bowel.

Joe lies on his back again.

He puts his arms over his head.

The radiographer presses the button on the scanner.

The bed and Joe move slowly into the scanner.

The radiographer tells Joe what to do.

The radiographer takes photos of Joe's bowel.

The gas helps the radiographer or doctor to see Joe's bowel more clearly.

Joe's head is not inside the scanner for all of the test.

When the CT colonography test is over, the bed and Joe move out of the scanner.

The radiographer or doctor takes the tube out of Joe's bottom.

The CT colonography test takes about 30 minutes.

Joe's test is finished.

He can get dressed.

Joe can have something to eat and drink.

Joe can go home.

You don't have to, but it is a good idea to have a friend or relative to take you home.

Joe will get his results in a few weeks

His doctor will get a copy of the results too.

More information

www.bowelscreen.ie

Phone us free on 1800 45 45 55

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The photo on the cover was taken by Joseph Carr
Photography.



An tSeirbhís Náisiúnta Scagthástála
National Screening Service

