

# **Barium Follow-Through X-ray**

## **What is a Barium Follow-through?**

This is an examination of the small bowel, the part of your digestive system immediately after the stomach. Preparation (starvation) is essential. Your bowel must be completely empty of food when you attend.

At the beginning of the examination, you will be asked to drink a cup of dense, white liquid (barium sulphate.)

The radiographer will take a series of images at regular intervals until the barium has reached the end of the small bowel. The length of time this takes depends solely on the speed of your bowel-action which can be anything between 1 and 6 hours. You may like to bring something to read to keep yourself occupied during this time.

Occasionally, it may be necessary to have images taken after this stage on the same day and possibly even the next morning, so if you are working, you will need to warn your employer and make provisional arrangements for extra time off work. We will be glad to provide proof of this extra attendance for your employer if necessary.

Prior to the examination you will be asked not to eat or drink for a period of time. No bran or iron tablets to be consumed for seven days prior to your appointment.

**The preparation will be confirmed in your appointment letter.**

**If you normally take any medicines in the morning in tablet form, please do not take them at the usual time. Bring them with you to take after the test.**