PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET ONLY

NO DOCUMENTED CONSENT REQUIRED
1. What is a Small Bowel Series / Follow Through?
A Small Bowel Series / Follow Through is an x-ray procedure that follows the passage of Contrast (once called x-ray dye) over time as it passes through your stomach and bowel.

2. Will there be any discomfort, is any anaesthetic needed?
You may feel some mild abdominal cramping during this procedure, this is normal.
No anaesthetic is required for this procedure.

3. Preparation for the procedure
The medical imaging department will give you instructions on how to prepare for your procedure.
- A bowel preparation kit. The bowel must be completely clear for the procedure to be accurate and complete.
- Please tell staff if you are or suspect you might be pregnant.

4. During the procedure
Plain x-ray pictures will be taken of your abdomen.
You will then be asked to drink about 2 cups of Contrast. X-ray pictures will be taken at timed intervals until the Contrast reaches the large bowel.
The length of time it takes to complete your procedure depends on how long it takes for the Contrast to pass through your bowel. This varies among patients.

5. After the procedure
Your stool may appear white for a few days after your procedure, this is normal.
It is important to drink plenty of water for a few days after the procedure. This helps to avoid constipation and dehydration.

6. What are the risks of this specific procedure?
The risks and complications with this procedure can include but are not limited to the following.

Common risks and complications include:
- Constipation, drinking extra fluids and laxatives can help with this.
- Diarrhoea, causing dehydration, drinking extra fluids can help with this.
- Vomiting may occur and require treatment with medication.

Less common risks and complications include:
- Pneumonia may occur if fluid from the stomach goes into the lungs. This may require antibiotics and further treatment.
- The procedure may not be possible due to medical and/or technical reasons.

Rare risks and complications include:
- An increased lifetime cancer risk due to the exposure to x-rays.
- Allergic reaction to the Contrast. This could result in a rash, hives, itching, nausea, fainting or shortness of breath. Medication may be given to relieve this.
- Death as a result of this procedure is very rare.

7. What are the safety issues when you leave the hospital?
Go to your nearest A&E (Accident and Emergency) department or GP if you become unwell.

Notes to talk to my doctor/ health practitioner about: