

Email:  
[info@northerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:info@northerntrust.hscni.net)

Website:  
[www.northerntrust.hscni.net](http://www.northerntrust.hscni.net)



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NT/AHS/03/11/6088 5k CCD

**Flexible  
cystoscopy**

## Introduction

Flexible cystoscopy is an examination of the bladder and the tube through which you pass water (the urethra) using a fine flexible telescope.

It is carried out under local anaesthetic as a day-case procedure. It is performed for a wide variety of symptoms and conditions, the commonest of which are having to pass water often, recurrent urinary tract infections and passing blood in the water.

## The flexible cystoscopy procedure

The Urologist / Specialist Urology nurse will speak to you before performing the examination to enquire about current symptoms and to ensure that you have no unanswered questions about the procedure. He / she will need your consent for the procedure to be performed. You will then be brought into an operating theatre and asked to lie on an operating table for the procedure to be performed.

Before passing the telescope the area around the end of the urethra will be cleaned with an antiseptic solution. After this, local anaesthetic lubricant gel will be inserted into the urethra. The end of the flexible telescope will then be gently passed along the length of the urethra and into the bladder with irrigation fluid running to ensure a clear view is just before the telescope enters the bladder.

To overcome this you may be asked to cough. This relaxes the bladder opening and allows the telescope to enter the bladder more easily. A thorough inspection of the lining of the bladder takes about 1-2 minutes under ideal conditions. It is common to have the feeling of wanting to pass water during the examination - if this becomes very uncomfortable tell the surgeon / specialist nurse.

After the examination the surgeon will tell you the result and you will be given the opportunity to empty your bladder. You will be allowed home after you successfully pass urine.

## When you go home

Discomfort when you pass water, and occasionally some bleeding, may occur following this procedure.

This will usually subside within 24-48 hours and will be helped by drinking plenty of fluids. If it persists beyond this time or if you feel unwell or have a temperature you should contact your GP or attend the Accident & Emergency Department of the hospital for assessment.

**If you require further information  
please contact the Day Procedure  
Unit on 028 7034 6102.**