



## **PATIENT INFORMATION**

### **Radiology Department Information for Inpatients having a Barium Swallow**

#### **Patient Details**

Name.....

Date of Birth.....

Hospital number.....

Ward.....

Date/time of planned procedure.....

ID label

#### **What is a barium swallow?**

This is an examination of the upper part of your gastric tract, from the mouth to the stomach. It will investigate the way you swallow food and liquid. You will need to either stand on a small step or sit on a chair in front of an x-ray machine, and drink some thick, fruit flavoured fluid (barium). The progress of this fluid from your mouth to your stomach will be observed on a TV monitor and recorded by film and/or video.

The examination only takes a few minutes, and causes no discomfort. If you have any concerns then you can ask your nurse to contact us and we can answer any questions you may have.

Radiology coordinator ☎ (01803) 655622

Radiology nurses ☎ (01803) 655657

#### **Preparation**

- Nothing to eat or drink for 6 hours before examination, but you can have clear fluids until 2 hours before your examination.
- It would help if you were changed into a hospital gown before coming down to the Radiology department.