

Performing a urinary flow rate test

As part of the investigations for your difficulty in passing urine or prostate symptoms, your specialist will need to do a special test to measure how fast you pass urine (a maximum urinary flow rate). This entails passing urine into a special funnel which measures electronically how fast your urine is expelled. This simple test will be performed immediately before you see your specialist.

You should try to come to this appointment in clinic with your bladder comfortably full. If your bladder contains less than 150ml (quarter of a pint), the result of the test may be unsatisfactory. If you have difficulty in keeping a full bladder, please inform the staff as soon as you arrive so that they can help provide you with sufficient fluid to fill up your bladder.

Often after you have passed urine your doctor will perform a simple ultrasound measurement of the urine that you have left in your bladder. This takes just a minute or two, and is painless.

Please note that you may receive similar instructions from the Ultrasound Scanning Department about preparation of your bladder before your ultrasound scan and these instructions should be followed separately.

If your bladder is not full for this test, the measurement could be invalid and it may be necessary for you to attend again at a later date to repeat the test.