1. WHAT IS A SMALL BOWEL SERIES WITH GASTROGRAFIN?
A small bowel series with Gastrografin is a special x-ray examination of the small bowel following the introduction of Gastrografin (a clear x-ray dye). The Gastrografin can be swallowed. If you have a nasogastric tube, the x-ray dye can be put directly into your stomach through the tube.

2. DO I NEED TO FOLLOW ANY SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO BE READY FOR A SMALL BOWEL SERIES WITH GASTROGRAFIN?
If there is a possibility that you are pregnant, please inform your physician before the procedure, as the procedure may have to be postponed or cancelled.
There are no diet restrictions for this examination.

3. WHO WILL PERFORM THE PROCEDURE?
This procedure will be performed by a radiologist (a specialist medical doctor).
An x-ray technologist will assist.

4. WHAT HAPPENS TO ME DURING THE PROCEDURE?
If you have any allergies (especially to x-ray dye) please inform the staff before you have the procedure.
At the discretion of your attending physician, gastric suction should be discontinued during the procedure (if tolerated)
If you are able to drink fluids, the Gastrografin will be given to you to swallow. If you have a tube into your stomach, a doctor or nurse will inject the Gastrografin through the tube into your stomach. If you are brought to the radiology department, a radiologist will inject the Gastrografin through the tube into your stomach.
If you are confined to a bed or stretcher, please lie on your right side to encourage the Gastrografin to leave your stomach.
A technique called Fluoroscopy will be used to allow the radiologist to watch x-ray images of your small bowel on a monitor. X-ray images at 30 and 60 minute intervals will be taken by the technologist until your digestive system has transported the Gastrografin to the large bowel. If this procedure takes longer than 2 hours, you may be sent back to your room and be brought back to the X-ray department when it is time for your next image. This procedure can take up to 24 hours.

5. SHOULD I EXPECT ANY AFTER EFFECTS AS A RESULT OF THIS PROCEDURE?
Some of the Gastrografin will be absorbed into your blood, collected by your kidneys and excreted when you urinate. The contrast media will not affect the colour of your urine.

If you develop hives or itching, or experience any difficulty swallowing or breathing, tell your nurse or physician (if you are still an in-patient). If you are at home, contact your physician or go to the Emergency Department of the hospital nearest you.

6. WHEN AND HOW WILL I KNOW THE RESULTS?
Your physician will receive a written report from the radiologist. You should obtain the results from your own physician. If there is any urgency, your physician is more than welcome to contact us by telephone.