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Dear Colleague

As a result of a recent National Patient Safety Agency Alert we have had to review our procedures for undertaking barium enema examinations.

The safety alert relates to the use of oral bowel preparation agents as there have been several reports of patient deaths as a consequence of these drugs.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010 these bowel preparation agents can only be prescribed when the patient has been seen and appropriately assessed. Part of the assessment will require measurement of the patient's renal function and electrolyte balance.

Not only will this clinic enhance patient safety but will enable patients to receive a thorough explanation of the procedure and have an opportunity to ask any questions they may have about the investigation

We are currently developing a proforma to assist with this and will forward a copy of this when it is available.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

**DR P M TAYLOR**  
Clinical Director of Radiology