

# Recycling

## What is it?

The recycling of faeces (poo) from the functioning stoma, down the non-functioning stoma, down the non-functioning stoma (or mucous fistula).

### Aims of the recycling:

- ▶ to monitor the function of the lower part of the bowel
- ▶ to stimulate the lower part of the bowel
- ▶ to ensure there is a way through from the non-functioning stoma to the bottom

This procedure is useful in babies/children who have had large sections of bowel removed or their stoma is high up the digestive tract i.e. jejunostomy or ileostomy.

**Your specialist nurse or surgeon will talk to you about how this procedure will be done.**

## Investigation

Prior to commencing recycling, the doctors may request a special x-ray, called a contrast dye study. A catheter is passed into the non-functioning stoma and dye is syringed down. It is followed by an x-ray which will show if there is a way through from the stoma to the anus.

