This is an interactive flow diagram that shows you what's involved in an Anal Examination.

This interactive has a chart of likely diagnosis as well as a link to the www.anal.org.au/clinician website that has more information, images as well as treatment.

Click on the coloured buttons to follow the appropriate stages of examination
Anal examination diagnostic flow chart

Does the patient complain of any symptoms?

- YES
- NO
Anal examination diagnostic flow chart

Does the Patient complain of any Symptoms?

YES

NO

See Likely Diagnosis

Pain
Lump
Bleeding
Rash
Discharge

Anal examination
Anal examination diagnostic flow chart

Does the Patient complain of any Symptoms?

YES

NO

See something

Feel lump on anal digital exam

Normal

See something

Pain

Lumps

Bleeding

Rash

Discharge

Likely Diagnosis
Does the Patient complain of any Symptoms?

**See likely Diagnosis**
- Pain
- Lumps
- Bleeding
- Rash
- Discharge

YES → See something

NO → Feel lump on anal digital exam

Anal examination

See something

Feel lump on anal digital exam

Normal
Refer

Anal examination diagnostic flow chart

Does the Patient complain of any Symptoms?

YES

NO

See Likely Diagnosis

Pain
Lumps
Bleeding
Rash
Discharge

See something

Rash Ulcer Lump

Features of potential anal cancer

Firm Lump >5 mm
Indurated ulcer
Plaque
Bleeding
Friable mass
Painful mass
Palpable inguinal lymphadenopathy

No features of malignancy
Happy with diagnosis

TREAT
Manage and review as indicated
(click link to clinical images page)

Or

Refer
Refer

Anal examination diagnostic flow chart

Does the Patient complain of any Symptoms?

See Likely Diagnosis

Pain
Lumps
Bleeding
Rash
Discharge

YES
NO

Anal examination

Does the Patient complain of any Symptoms?

YES
NO

See something

Feel lump on anal digital exam

Hard lump (suspicious of anal cancer)
Soft lump

TREAT
Manage and review as indicated
(click link here for clinical images page)

OR

Refer
Anal examination diagnostic flow chart

Does the Patient complain of any Symptoms?

YES

NO

See something

Feel lump on anal digital exam

Normal

Repeat anal examination in one year
### Likely diagnosis
What is the patient complaining about?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pain alone</th>
<th>Lump alone</th>
<th>Bleeding alone</th>
<th>Rash alone</th>
<th>Discharge alone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Anal fissure  
• Anal herpes  
• Ulcerative proctitis | • Skin tag  
• Warts  
• Anal cancer  
• Haemorrhoid | • Internal haemorrhoids  
• Colorectal polyps  
• Colorectal cancer  
• Anal cancer | • Psoriasis  
• Eczema / Dermatitis  
• Candidal infection  
• Folliculitis  
• Lichen sclerosis  
• Lichen planus  
• Scabies  
• Tinea | • STIs - Chlamydia  
• Gonorrhea  
• LGV  
• Anal fissure  
• Perianal abscess |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>+ Haematoma</th>
<th>+ Haematoma</th>
<th>+ Pain</th>
<th>+ Lump</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Perianal Haematoma  
• Strangulated internal haemorrhoid  
• Abscess (perianal or ischiorectal)  
• Pilonidal sinus | • Perianal haematoma  
• Strangulated internal haemorrhoid  
• Abscess (perianal or ischiorectal)  
• Pilonidal sinus | • Anal fissure  
• Proctitis | • Haemorrhoid  
• Anal cancer | |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>+ Bleeding</th>
<th>+ Bleeding</th>
<th>+ Lump</th>
<th>+ Lump</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Anal fissure  
• Proctitis | • Haemorrhoid  
• Anal cancer | • Haemorrhoid  
• Anal cancer | • Haemorrhoid  
• Ulcerated perianal haematoma | |

[Link to ACES website](www.anal.org.au/clinician/resources/Gallery)