

Colonoscopy / Flexible Sigmoidoscopy

Post Procedure Advice

After your procedure:

- You may continue your normal medications. However, if you have been advised to stop a blood thinning medication, a nurse will let you know before you leave when it is safe to start taking it again.

If you have had sedation, for the following 24 hours:

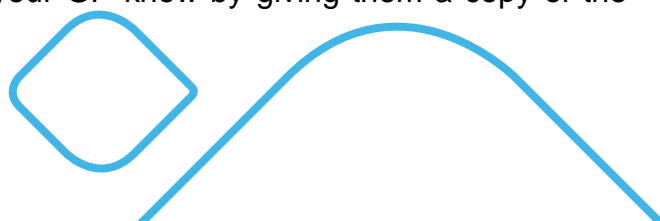
- You cannot legally drive.
- You must not use or operate machinery and electrical appliances.
- You must not drink alcohol.
- You should not sign any important documents or papers that you may not want to agree to at a later time.
- You must not look after anyone who needs your help to manage, such as young children or older members of the family.
- You must have someone to supervise you at home and accompany you during your discharge from the hospital.

You may experience:

- Some diarrhoea for a couple of days until your bowels return to normal.
- Abdominal (tummy) pain due to air introduced to your bowel during your procedure. This can be relieved by hot drinks and moving around.
- A small amount of bleeding the first few times you open your bowels.

Follow Up:

- If polyps have been removed the scarring will heal naturally within one week. No alteration to your normal diet is needed.
- If biopsies have been taken, you will be informed with the results either at your outpatient appointment, or in a letter. We will also let your GP know by giving them a copy of the letter.



Please seek immediate medical help straight away if you develop any of the following symptoms:

- Severe pain and/or vomiting.
- Rectal (back passage) bleeding, black tarry stools or vomiting blood.
- A high temperature and/or 'flu like' symptoms.
- Redness, pain and/or swelling at the site where you had a cannula if you had sedation.

On Monday to Friday between 08.00 and 18.00 please call the endoscopy department on 01225 821425 or 01225 821788.

Out of hours please call 01225 824430 to speak to a nurse for advice.

If in doubt, go straight to the nearest emergency department or call NHS 111.

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If you would like this leaflet in email form, large print, braille or another language, please contact the Patient Support and Complaints team on 01225 825656.

Date of publication: August 2024 | Ref: RUH GAS/030
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