

Patient
Information

Discharge advice following a sedated colonoscopy/flexible sigmoidoscopy

Introduction

This leaflet gives you information about the care following your colonoscopy/ flexible sigmoidoscopy.

Sedation

The medications used for sedation can remain in the body for at least 24 hours, gradually wearing off.

It is therefore very important that a capable adult is available to take you home and stay with you for the next 24 hours.

It is also important that for the next 24 hours you follow the advice below:

- You should not drive or ride a bicycle as your reflexes and judgement will be impaired.
- Sedation can make you unsteady on your feet. Please be careful on stairs and have someone with you if you feel unsteady.
- Your judgement may be affected so do not make any important decisions or sign any legal documents.
- Be careful if using social media.
- You should not return to work, look after dependants, cook or operate machinery.
- You should not drink any alcohol or take sleeping tablets.

When can I eat and drink?

You can eat and drink normally after discharge although we do recommend a lighter diet for today.

Medication

You can take your usual prescribed medications when they are next due unless otherwise stated by the Endoscopist or discharging nurse. For blood thinning medications (anticoagulants) separate advice will be given.

Reference No.

GHPI1516_07_23

Department

Endoscopy

Review due

July 2026

**Patient
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After effects

You may experience a bloated, windy feeling – moving around may help to relieve this.

If we have removed a polyp, you may bleed slightly after the procedure, this is not unusual.

What happens next?

- A report will be sent to your GP.
- The results of the test and any specimens taken are sent directly to your GP. This can take up to 5 weeks.
- If a consultant follow up is needed you will receive an appointment letter in the post.
- If a repeat procedure is needed your medical notes will be reviewed by an Endoscopist before you are due to attend. This is because the criteria for repeating procedures may change or be altered as National Guidelines are reviewed and updated. If it is felt that your procedure is no longer required, we will send you a letter in the post.

A member of the nursing team will have explained to you what has been done today and any further tests that you may need.

When to seek advice

Serious side effects are rare. However, if any of the following occur within 48 hours after your colonoscopy/flexible sigmoidoscopy please contact the Endoscopy Unit where you had your procedure.

- Severe pain in the chest or abdomen.
- Bleeding from the bottom or passing black tarry stools.
- Abdominal pain and/or bloating.
- High temperature (fever) or you feel generally unwell.
- Disorientation (feeling lost or confused).

Patient Information

If you have been given Buscopan® to relax your bowel during the procedure, please seek urgent medical advice if you experience any of the following:

- Painful red eye with loss of vision.
- Blurred, misty or foggy vision.
- Nausea and/or vomiting.
- Unable to pass urine.

Results

Please contact your GP or consultant directly for your test results as these are not disclosed to Endoscopy.

Contact information

If you have any concerns, please contact the Endoscopy Unit where you were seen or your GP.

Endoscopy Units

Gloucestershire Royal Hospital

Tel: 0300 422 8222

Monday to Friday, 8:00am to 6:00pm

Cheltenham General Hospital

Tel: 0300 422 3593

Monday to Friday, 8:00am to 6:00pm

Cirencester Hospital

Tel: 0300 421 6294

Monday to Friday, 8:00am to 4:00pm

Stroud Hospital

Tel: 0300 421 8073

Monday to Friday, 8:00am to 6:00pm

Out of hours, please contact NHS 111 for advice:

Tel: 111

If you think you require **immediate** medical attention, please phone 999 or go to your nearest Accident & Emergency Department.

Content reviewed: July 2026

Patient
 Information

Feedback

To help the Endoscopy Department understand what is important to you and how we can improve our service, we would appreciate if you would take the time to complete a feedback survey.

All responses will be anonymous and any information provided will be used sensitively and stored securely.

To access the survey, please use the QR code below or type the 'case sensitive' link into your internet browser.



<https://bit.ly/3MHOXIG>

Making a choice

Shared Decision Making

If you are asked to make a choice, you may have lots of questions that you want to ask. You may also want to talk over your options with your family or friends. It can help to write a list of the questions you want answered and take it to your appointment.



Ask 3 Questions

To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions if you are asked to make a choice about your healthcare.

1. What are my options?
2. What are the pros and cons of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?

These resources have been adapted with kind permission from the MAGIC Programme, supported by the Health Foundation

* Ask 3 Questions is based on Shepherd HL, et al. Three questions that patients can ask to improve the quality of information physicians give about treatment options: A cross-over trial. Patient Education and Counselling, 2011;84: 379-85