

**Patient  
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# Discharge advice following an ERCP procedure

## Introduction

This leaflet gives you information on care following your ERCP (Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography) procedure.

## 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 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 you eat and drink?

You can have a drink from: \_\_\_\_\_

You can eat from: \_\_\_\_\_

You can eat and drink normally after discharge from the time indicated above; although we do recommend a lighter diet for today.

Reference No.

**GHPI1517\_01\_21**

Department

**Endoscopy**

Review due

**January 2024**

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## Medication

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

## After effects

You may experience the following:

- A bloated, windy feeling – moving around may help to relieve this.
- A sore throat for a short time after the procedure. This is normal and should pass within 2 days.

Following an ERCP, there is a small risk of:

Inflammation of the pancreas, this is called pancreatitis. It can be painful and usually requires admission to hospital for treatment.

## What happens next?

- A report will be sent to your GP in the next couple of weeks.
- If a consultant follow up is needed you will receive an appointment 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

If any of the symptoms listed below are not relieved by simple pain relief (such as paracetamol) please contact the Endoscopy Unit where you had the procedure performed.

- Severe pain in the neck, chest or abdomen.
- Repeated vomiting, bleeding or passing black tarry stools.
- Abdominal distension (expansion of the abdominal region).
- High temperature (fever) or you feel generally unwell.
- Disorientation (feeling lost or confused).

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- You have been given Buscopan® to relax your stomach during the procedure. Please seek advice if you experience any of the following:
  - Pain in both eyes/painful red eyes
  - Blurred, misty or foggy vision or haloes around lights
  - Nausea and/or vomiting
  - Unable to pass urine.

## **Contact information**

### **Endoscopy Unit**

#### **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

Between 6:00pm and 8:00am you should contact the:

#### **Gloucestershire Hospitals Switchboard**

Tel: 0300 422 2222

When prompted please ask for the operator then the Site Management Team. The operator will then contact a Senior Nurse to advise you.

Alternatively you can contact NHS 111 for advice.

#### **NHS 111**

Tel 111

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