

Patient information factsheet

Colonoscopy (C1) aftercare advice

You have had a colonoscopy today

A colonoscopy is an examination of your large bowel using a colonoscope (which is a long, flexible tube attached to a small camera and light that is inserted into your rectum and up into your bowel).

As you have had a sedative injection, your physical and mental capabilities may be affected and you may feel drowsy. For your own safety and the safety of others, you should follow the advice below:

- **Do not** drive or ride any type of bicycle for at least 24 hours.
- **Do not** operate any type of electrical or mechanical equipment / machinery for at least 24 hours.
- **Do not** sign any legally binding documents for at least 24 hours.
- **Do not** drink any alcohol for at least 24 hours.
- **You should not** be responsible for young children, disabled or dependent relatives for at least 24 hours.
- Continue to take your normal medication unless you're advised otherwise.
- You can eat as you normally would.
- Rest quietly for the remainder of the day and ensure you have someone stay with you overnight.

Patient sticker	Sedation	
	Biopsies	
	Polyps removed	
	Diathermy used	
	Dye spray	

Tick boxes as required

Advice given by: Signature Print name

After the procedure you may experience some windy, cramp-like pains (due to the air we passed through the colonoscope). This is normal and should settle within 24 to 48 hours.

As a result of any specimens taken, or polyps (abnormal growths) removed you may pass some blood from your back passage (rectum). This is normal and again should settle within 24 to 48 hours.

If the pain does not settle, or you are at all concerned about your recovery, please contact the endoscopy unit on **023 8120 6066** (9am to 6pm) or your GP.

If you cannot contact either of these or your concern is out of hours, please contact the emergency department on: **023 8120 6220**.

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If you experience any severe bleeding from your back passage or extreme cramp-like pains in your stomach (abdomen), you must go to your nearest emergency department. Take this sheet with you.

You can get further advice by calling NHS Direct on **111**.

When you are ready to leave the endoscopy unit we will give you:

- a copy of your consent form
- an advice sheet on what you should and shouldn't do
- follow-up advice
- a prescription if required

We will also explain what we have done today and what we have found.

If you need to see a GP within the next two weeks, please take this factsheet with you.

If we are arranging an appointment for you to be seen in outpatients, we will send you a letter by post. Please ask the nursing staff if you have any questions about your treatment or services in the endoscopy unit.

If you have any comments, compliments, concerns or complaints please contact patient support services on **023 8120 6325** or e-mail **patientsupportservices@uhs.nhs.uk**

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