

# Flexible Sigmoidoscopy with Sedation

Discharge information for patients



**Side effects** - After your flexible sigmoidoscopy you may experience the following symptoms:

## Abdominal discomfort

You may feel a little bloated and have some wind-like pains because of the gas passed into your bowel during the procedure. This should settle within a few hours.

## Bleeding

The passing of small amounts of blood after this examination is normal. If this persists, increases or becomes clots, please contact either NHS 24 or A&E.

## Complications

Contact NHS 24 or A&E if you experience any of the following symptoms:

- Severe pain in the abdomen
- Breathing difficulties
- High temperature, sweats or chills
- Vomiting

Contact telephone numbers can be found overleaf.

## Medication

Please continue to take any regular medication unless otherwise advised by us.

## Discomfort at the injection site

You may experience slight discomfort where the sedative injection was given. If this becomes increasingly red, tender or swollen, please seek advice from your GP.

## Sedation

Sedation makes you drowsy and can impair your reflexes and judgement. For 24 hours after you have had sedation:

Do not go to work	Do not drink alcohol
Do not sign any important documents	Do not drive or ride a bike
Avoid looking after young children	Take care in the bath or shower
Do not use any kind of machinery, including household appliances	Do not take sleeping tablets

We advise you to rest quietly with adult supervision for the rest of the day.

## Results

You should have already received a copy of your results, but a copy of the report will also be sent to your GP.

If you had biopsies taken these results will be sent to you as soon as they are available. This can take several weeks. Your GP will also be sent a copy of your biopsy results.

If you need to make an appointment with your GP regarding your results, please contact your health centre to ensure they have received them first.

## Follow up

- ☐ No further follow up required      ☐ Follow up with your GP      ☐ Follow up in clinic
- ☐ A follow up procedure is required

If you need a follow up procedure as part of a surveillance programme or to reassess any abnormalities found at your flexible sigmoidoscopy, your case will be reviewed by us 2 months before the procedure date. This will make sure it still needs to be done according to the most up-to-date guidelines.

If any changes are required following this review, you will be informed at that time.

## Any other relevant information


## Contact telephone numbers

Western General Hospital	0131 537 1327 or 0131 537 1695
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh	0131 242 1600
St John's Hospital (voicemail)	01506 523 982
East Lothian Community Hospital	01620 642 885
Leith Community Treatment Centre	0131 536 6442
NHS 24	111 Freephone
Accident and Emergency (Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh switchboard)	0131 536 1000

