

What will happen following my ERCP?

Information for patients from the Trust's Endoscopy Unit

What will happen after my ERCP (Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangio Pancreatography)?

You will remain in the recovery area for at least one hour. If you are going home you will need to stay with us for up to five hours.

The nurses will regularly check your vital signs (temperature, pulse, blood pressure, and oxygen levels) and generally keep a close eye on you for any signs of possible complications. If you are transferred to the ward, the nurses there will continue these checks.

Will I have any pain?

- You may have a slight sore throat for a few days.
- You may have some abdominal distension (swelling) or bloating caused by the air used to inflate your small bowel during your procedure.
- Severe pain may be a sign of complications such as perforation or pancreatitis, so please keep your nurse aware of any severe pain you experience.

The nurse caring for you will make sure you are assessed by the endoscopist and given the necessary treatment to make you comfortable.

Will I be able to eat and drink after my procedure?

You will be able to rinse your mouth and clean your teeth if you feel dry and uncomfortable. As soon as the nurse or endoscopist feels you are well enough you will have drinks and a light diet.

You may have fluids through a drip. This will stay in place to prevent you becoming dehydrated until you are able to drink enough fluid.



When can I go home?

If your procedure is straightforward you may be able to go home later the same day.

If you have had a procedure such as stone removal or a stent placed, or if we feel you need further care or observation, you may have to stay in hospital.

If you have to stay overnight you will be seen by a doctor on the ward the following morning. If you have been well overnight, you will be able to go home. If you are advised to stay in hospital any longer than this, the reasons will be discussed with you.

What are the signs of a complication or side effects?

You may feel drowsy for a few hours after the sedation you have been given.

If you develop any of the following then you must contact your GP or go to your nearest Emergency Department immediately, bringing the copy of your report with you.

- High temperature
- Generally unwell
- Abdominal pain
- Vomiting (being sick)
- Difficulty breathing
- Signs of bleeding (vomiting blood or black stools).

Is there anything else I have to do?

- If you go home on the day of your procedure you will need to have someone with you for 24 hours until the sedation has worn off, to make sure you are alright.
- You **must not** drive for 24 hours.
- You **must not** sign legal papers for 24 hours.
- You **must not** operate any machinery for 24 hours.
- If you have been given antibiotics you must finish the course prescribed.

What if I need advice after I get home?

Please phone the Endoscopy Unit. The units are open Monday to Sunday 8am to 6pm.

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| • William Harvey Hospital, Ashford | Telephone: 01233 61 62 74 |
| • Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury | Telephone: 01227 78 30 58 |
| • Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital, Margate | Telephone: 01843 23 43 70 |

If you have any questions between 6pm and 8am Monday to Sunday, please contact the Emergency Department at either:

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| • William Harvey Hospital, Ashford | Telephone 01233 61 62 07 |
| • Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital, Margate | Telephone 01843 23 50 30 |

A short film outlining what patients can expect when coming to hospital for an endoscopy is available on the East Kent Hospitals web site www.ekhft.nhs.uk/endoscopy/

Our units are regularly inspected and audited; please ask if you want any information about our performance standards. You can also visit www.patientopinion.co.uk

This leaflet has been produced with and for patients

If you would like this information in **another language, audio, Braille, Easy Read, or large print** please ask a member of staff. You can ask someone to contact us on your behalf.

Any complaints, comments, concerns, or compliments please speak to your doctor or nurse, or contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01227 78 31 45, or email ekh-tr.pals@nhs.net

Patients should not bring in large sums of money or valuables into hospital. Please note that East Kent Hospitals accepts no responsibility for the loss or damage to personal property, unless the property had been handed in to Trust staff for safe-keeping.

Further patient leaflets are available via the East Kent Hospitals web site www.ekhft.nhs.uk/patientinformation