

Epworth Centre Gastroenterology

Colonoscopy Instructions with clear fluids (PREP-KIT-C)

Date of Procedure(s) _____ in the **Morning / Afternoon with Dr Peter Prichard**

PROCEDURE LOCATION:

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Epworth Hospital | Main Reception | Level 2, 89 Bridge Rd, Richmond | Ph. 9426 6681 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Royal Melbourne Hospital | Day Procedure Unit | Level 3, West, Grattan St, Parkville | Ph. 9342 8401 |

Key Information

- The procedure time will be approximately 20-30 minutes
- The arrival time will be confirmed with you 1-2 days beforehand by the hospital
- Allow 2-3 hours from your arrival time before you will be ready to go home
- Ensure you have someone to drive you home afterwards
- You must follow the separate **colonoscopy instructions** to prepare for the colonoscopy
- On the day your doctor will see you before and after the procedure to discuss the results
- You will receive a hard copy of the report. The report and all results will also be sent to your GP

What is a colonoscopy? A colonoscopy enables your doctor to examine the lining of the colon (large bowel). Under sedation, a flexible tube is gently passed via the anus into the colon. A tissue biopsy may be taken, or polyps removed. Colonoscopy is the best test to assess for bowel polyps, inflammation or cancer.

Is Colonoscopy safe? Colonoscopy is a safe and well-tolerated procedure. You may feel temporary bloating following the procedure due to inflation of the bowel during the procedure. Occasionally there may be nausea or light-headedness following the anaesthetic. Serious complications are rare, but may include:

- **Aspiration** - (stomach contents enter the lungs) <1% cases
- **Bleeding** - if a polyp is removed – this may occur up to 2 weeks following the procedure and rarely requires hospitalisation or further procedures to stop the bleeding; uncommon with most colonoscopy procedures <2% cases, very rare from biopsies
- **Infection** - rare
- **Perforation** (a hole in the bowel) which may require surgery rare – less than 1:3000

What Bowel Preparation is required? For the procedure to be accurate, the colon must be completely clean. This is achieved by following the **colonoscopy instructions** you will be provided with. The preparation will cause diarrhoea to clean the colon. It is available to purchase without a script at Dr Prichard's rooms or at your local pharmacy.

What do I need to bring? You will need to bring your doctor's referral (if open access), health fund and Medicare cards. Wear loose fitting clothing and leave jewellery and valuables at home.

What happens afterwards? You may be drowsy for several hours following the sedation. A friend or family member must drive you home and stay with you till the next day. Your procedure may be cancelled if this has not been organised. You must not drive until the following day or longer if you drive with a commercial licence.

You should contact your doctor immediately if you experience any severe abdominal pain, vomiting of blood, difficulty breathing, fevers/chills, or any other symptoms you are concerned about. Alternatively, present to the closest emergency department.

If you have any questions please call Dr Prichard's rooms on 03 9421 3430

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BOWEL PREPARATION

- You will need to obtain “PREP-KIT-C” This is available at Dr Prichard’s rooms or at your local pharmacy without a prescription
- The preparation can be made-up and chilled in the fridge before hand, if preferred
- For a successful colonoscopy, it is very important that the large bowel be totally clean. Please follow the instructions carefully for the best possible results

MEDICATION

- Stop iron tablets, constipation agents (e.g. Imodium, Gastrostop, Codeine) 5 days before the colonoscopy. Also stop whole grains, food with pips or seeds, muesli, nuts, and fibre supplements (e.g. Metamucil) at the same time
- Blood thinning medications: Please seek advice at least 10 days prior to the colonoscopy. Aspirin can be continued.
- Diabetic medications: please seek advice on how to manage diabetes medication and insulin
- If you take the Oral Contraceptive Pill you should use additional contraception for 7 days after the bowel preparation is commenced as the pill’s absorption may be temporarily affected.

BOWEL PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

THE DAY BEFORE YOUR COLONOSCOPY	
Have a normal breakfast before 10 am, then only drink CLEAR FLUIDS until your colonoscopy CLEAR FLUIDS are: water, soda water, mineral water, cordial, sports drinks (not red/purple/blue), lemonade, apple juice (no pulp), black coffee/tea, clear soup (e.g. clear chicken broth)	
6 pm	Drink the first Picoprep sachet in 250 ml water Follow with at least 2-3 large glasses of CLEAR FLUIDS
8 pm	Drink the Glycoprep-C sachet in 1 litre of water. Drink 1 glass every 10-15 minutes until finished. The Glycoprep/water mixture can be chilled and drunk through a straw to be more palatable Drink further CLEAR FLUIDS as desired
Drink at least one glass of CLEAR FLUIDS each hour until bedtime	
ON THE DAY	
4-5 hours before admission time	Drink the last Picoprep sachet in 250 ml water Follow with at least 2-3 large glasses of CLEAR FLUIDS
2 hours before admission time	FAST (no more clear fluids or anything to drink) You can take regular medication with a sip of water but do not take diabetes medication Please arrive at the scheduled admission time