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COLONOSCOPY INFORMATION HANDOUT

YOUR APPOINTMENT DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

DATE:

TIME OF ARRIVAL:

WITH: Dr Dorrington

Dr Ellison

AT:

FACILITY:

| | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ALLAMANDA PRIVATE HOSPITAL 21 Spindelove Street SOUTHPORT 4215 PH: 5532 6444 | <input type="checkbox"/> PACIFIC PRIVATE DAY SURGERY Level 1 123 Nerang Street SOUTHPORT 4215 PH: 5556 6222 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PINDARA PRIVATE HOSPITAL Endoscopy Unit Allchurch Avenue BENOWA 4217 PH: 5588 9888 | <input type="checkbox"/> PINDARA DAY PROCEDURE CENTRE (PDPC) Pindara Place 13 Carrara Street BENOWA 4217 PH: 5588 9588 |

Our goal is to make your colonoscopy as safe and as comfortable as possible

Please do:

- ⇒ Take your bowel preparation according to the attached instructions
- ⇒ Nil by mouth for 2 hours immediately prior to your arrival – 4 hours if you are having your colonoscopy in conjunction with a gastroscopy
- ⇒ Bring a list of your medications
- ⇒ Bring your Medicare card along with Health Fund and government concession cards if applicable

- ⇒ Advise us at least 7 days beforehand:
 - if you are on **Warfarin or Pradaxa**
 - if you are on **Plavix, Iscover or CoPlavix**
 - if you are on **Insulin**
 - if you have a **Latex Allergy**
 - if your weight is in excess of **130 kgs** and you are booked into either Pacific Private or PDPC, as Qld Health guidelines preclude admission to a day surgery in this instance

PLEASE NOTE

Your procedure involves a light anaesthetic so you will NOT be able to drive home or travel by public transport

WHAT IS COLONOSCOPY?

Colonoscopy is the direct examination of the large bowel (colon) and rectum via a colonoscope – a long, flexible tube about 11-13 mm in diameter which displays an image on a TV screen. Small tissue samples (biopsies) may be collected and wart like growths (polyps) removed by passing long, thin forceps or a snare down a channel in the colonoscope.

What preparation is necessary?

- Successful completion of your bowel preparation. (See separate page).
- Nil by mouth for at least two hours prior to the procedure.
- Iron tablets should be stopped seven days prior to the procedure.
- All regular medications (excepting diabetic medication) to be taken as usual with a small amount of water on the day of the procedure.
- Patients on **Warfarin** or **Insulin**, or those on **Clopidogril (trade names Plavix, CoPlavix or Iscover)** **MUST** contact Dr Ellison's rooms at least 7 days prior to the procedure to make special arrangements.

How Accurate is Colonoscopy?

Accuracy is dependent on the colonoscopist's ability to pass the instrument all the way around the colon as well on the adequacy of the preparation.

Polyps can be missed and even with complete colonoscopy, up to 3% of bowel cancers can be missed. The risk of missing a cancer appears to be less for highly trained colonoscopists.

What Alternatives are there to Colonoscopy?

Barium enema allows examination of the bowel but is not as accurate as colonoscopy. CT colonoscopy is an evolving procedure which is more accurate than barium enema but in most studies, less accurate than colonoscopy in finding polyps or cancer. Both CT colonoscopy (using CT scanning) and barium enema involve radiation exposure and do not allow for polyps to be removed, biopsies taken or other treatments performed. In circumstances where the risk of colonoscopy-associated complications is high, CT colonoscopy may be an appropriate alternative.

In colon cancer surveillance, faecal testing for blood will detect 30-40% of cancers and is thus a lot less accurate than colonoscopy. It is, however, simple and has no complications other than, of course, the risk of a missed cancer.

Special Considerations:

1. Blood thinning medications.

A. Aspirin compounds:

Aspirin including low dose aspirin e.g. Astrix, Cartia, Cardiprin and DBL aspirin do not appear to result in a significant increase in bleeding, even when polyps are removed. These should usually be continued. If you are concerned about this contact the doctor (usually your GP) who is supervising the aspirin.

B. Clopidogril - trade names Plavix, CoPlavix and Iscover:

Most patients can safely stop these medications seven days prior to colonoscopy, recommencing the day after the procedure.

If however you have had a coronary or carotid artery stent inserted in the last 12 months there is a risk of clogging of the stent. This can have serious consequences. Dr Ellison will discuss this with your GP or the doctor who commenced the Plavix or Iscover and then discuss this with you. If you have had a stent inserted in the last 12 months, do not stop the Clopidogril until Dr Ellison contacts you.

C. Anticoagulants, i.e. Warfarin or Pradaxa:

Although colonoscopy can be performed in patients on Warfarin there is the increased risk of bleeding if polyps are removed.

The decision to continue or stop Warfarin, as well as the way this should be managed, is made on a case by case basis.

If you are on Warfarin or Pradaxa please continue this medication in your usual dose until you have discussed this with Dr Ellison, or your own doctor.

2. Diabetes

If you are using **Insulin** you will need to let Dr Ellison know at least 7 days prior to the procedure. Occasionally you may need to be admitted to hospital for the preparation. If you are on an oral anti-diabetic drug in the metformin group, this should be stopped **2 days** prior to your procedure.

N.B. Antibiotics are only very rarely given prior to the procedure.

How is Colonoscopy performed?

Dr Ellison will be assisted by both a nurse and a specialist anaesthetist. You will be asked for details of your medical history, as special precautions may be necessary to reduce risks, especially if you have had a serious heart, chest or other medical problem.

At the beginning of the procedure, you will be given an injection into a vein to sedate and relax you. Oxygen is given with the levels in your blood being monitored via a “peg” on your finger. The colonoscope is inserted through the anus (back passage) into the rectum and the large bowel. If any polyps (mushroom or wart-like growths) are found, it is advised that they be removed at the time as cancer can arise from these growths. Most polyps can be removed by placing a wire snare around the base of the polyp and applying an electric current (polypectomy).

Sometimes a poor result from the preparation, bowel narrowing or other diseases prevent the colonoscope being passed through the entire large bowel.

After your Colonoscopy:

After the procedure you will be monitored in Recovery until you are able to be assisted to a chair in the Recovery Lounge where you will be offered light refreshments.

When you have recovered suitably, Dr Ellison will briefly discuss the report with you. ***With Direct Access Colonoscopy, it is up to the referring doctor and not Dr Ellison to assess the relevance of the findings in relation to your symptoms and institute any treatment.***

The sedation has the effect of frequently causing you to forget what you have been told after the procedure. A complete, detailed report will be sent to your doctor.

You will, in general, be ready to go home about one hour after the procedure. You should have someone stay with you for the rest of the day and preferably overnight.

As the sedative drugs will remain in your system for some time, do not drive a car, use machinery, cook or iron for at least 12 hours. Do not return to work or sign legal documents until the next day.

If you have SEVERE abdominal pain, profuse rectal bleeding, fevers or other symptoms which cause you serious concern, then you should contact Dr Ellison or your local hospital.

COLONOSCOPY - SAFETY AND RISKS

PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY

It is not possible to list all potential risks and complications of this procedure. If you have any specific concerns, please speak to Dr Ellison prior to the procedure.

This important information is not meant to frighten you; but it is our responsibility to outline the risks. You can then make an informed decision whether or not to proceed. There are, of course, risks in **not** having the procedure e.g. missed diagnoses including cancer.

Complications of diagnostic colonoscopy are uncommon and most surveys report serious complications in fewer than one in a thousand patients. Minor complications which can occur, include intolerance to the bowel preparation solution – usually nausea, vomiting and occasionally dehydration, or reaction to sedatives. Dehydration and fasting can cause headache.

Perforation (a hole in the bowel) or major bleeding from the bowel is extremely rare but if it occurs, may require surgery. When interventions such as removal of polyps are carried out at the time of examination, there is a slightly higher risk of perforation, or indeed bleeding from the site where the polyp was removed – often 5-14 days after the procedure. In the unlikely event of major haemorrhage occurring, blood transfusion may be necessary. Please inform Dr Ellison if you have any religious or ethical reservations re blood transfusion.

Complications of sedation are uncommon and are usually avoided by administering oxygen and monitoring oxygen levels in the blood during the procedure. Rarely however, serious sedation related problems can occur. Aspiration of secretions into the lungs is a potentially serious complication, sometimes requiring hospital admission.

A number of rare side effects can occur with any endoscopic procedure. Death is a remote possibility with any interventional procedure. If you wish to have full details of rare complications explained, please indicate this to your referring doctor prior to the procedure and a consultation with Dr Ellison will be organised to discuss your concerns prior to you commencing the preparation.

CONSENT FOR COLONOSCOPY/POLYPECTOMY

I have read and understand the procedure information for colonoscopy as outlined in the patient information brochure supplied and have read and understand the fees charged for this procedure. I hereby agree to the performance of the colonoscopy by Dr Ellison and the taking of biopsies and removal of polyps if considered appropriate by Dr Ellison at the time of the colonoscopy. I hereby give Dr Ellison permission to access or obtain relevant medical information from any other health professional or ancillary service provider. I understand this will assist him in my diagnosis and management.

PATIENTS SIGNATURE.....

WITNESS SIGNATURE.....

NAME.....

NAME

(Please print)

(Please print)

DATE.....

DATE

DOCTORS SIGNATURE :



**PLEASE BRING THIS COMPLETED CONSENT FORM WITH YOU WHEN YOU ATTEND
YOUR PROCEDURE**

PAYMENT POLICY

- Your fund **does** have a suitable “no gap” policy.

Dr Ellison will directly bill your fund and you will not be required to submit forms or pay any gap. However, in the event that your health fund does not cover this account or not pay the fee in full, then you will be required to pay this account or any gap. Examples of where this might occur include not being financial, or if waiting periods have not been served.

The day hospital fee is separate from Dr Ellison’s account and is **usually** submitted directly to your fund. If you have an excess on your policy this may apply. Please check this with patient services at the day surgery, or with your health fund

- Your fund **does not** have a suitable “no gap” policy.

Secure payment is required for the day of the procedure. We will require your credit card details and will then bill your card accordingly following the procedure. If you do not have a credit card we will require secure payment prior to the procedure day either by EFTPOS, cash or cheque. Your account and receipt will then be forwarded after the procedure for claiming from both Medicare and your private health fund.

- DVA will pay your fee in full.

- You have no private health insurance – cost estimate attached

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If Medicare has your bank account details, we can submit the paid account electronically to Medicare for a direct refund into your account. Please advise our staff if you would like to choose this option

The anaesthetist is a private practitioner. Should you have any queries about the anaesthetic fee or your out of pocket expenses to the anaesthetist, please ring:

- Southport Anaesthetic Services on 5532 3667 or
- Dr David Yeadon on 5503 0033.

If any tissue samples are sent to the pathologist an account will be raised by the pathologist for this examination.

If your fund has a direct billing agreement with the pathologist, you will not receive the account. However, if your fund does not have an agreement, or if you are uninsured, you will be sent the account which you can then claim on Medicare (and your health fund (if applicable))