

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Diet and bowel preparation prior to a colon capsule endoscopy – Picolax with Senna, Bisocodyl or Movicol

The aim of this leaflet is to help you to prepare for your colon capsule procedure.

Please read this thoroughly for advice on alterations needed to your diet and administration of bowel preparation medication to clean your bowel in the days leading up to your test.



These instructions for taking your bowel preparation replace those enclosed in the packets containing Picolax. However, it is important you read the manufacturer's leaflet inside the packet of preparation before you take the bowel preparation. The leaflet will tell you about the preparation itself, such as allergies, indications for taking or not taking the preparation, the possible side effects, the effect it can have on taking oral medications (in particular medications that may affect fluid balance) and when you should consult a doctor before taking the bowel preparation.

Any usual oral medication should be taken at least two hours before starting the Picolax to minimise the risk of flushing the medication through the gut and not being fully absorbed.

The aim of the bowel preparation is to clean your bowel so that there are clear views of the lining of your bowel during your colon capsule procedure. If you are unable to take any of the bowel preparation for any reason or your bowel preparation does not work properly, it is important you contact the Endoscopy Unit using the contact telephone number on your Endoscopy appointment letter.

Poor bowel preparation may mean that the capsule procedure may not go ahead, and you will need to repeat the preparations and endoscopy test on another day.

We understand we may be asking you to get up early on the day of your test to take your second sachets of bowel preparation. Research shows that to achieve good views during your colon capsule procedure and reduce the risk of missing lesions or polyps it is best to take the **second part** of your bowel preparation **five hours** before the time of your appointment for your endoscopy test. If you feel it is impossible to get up this early to take your bowel preparation please contact the Endoscopy Unit.

The remainder of this leaflet advises you on how to prepare in the days leading up to your colon capsule procedure. Please follow the actions below starting seven days before the day of your appointment if you take iron medication, or four days before for all other patients. You will have possibly already been asked to commence a low residue diet.

Schedule for preparing for your colon capsule procedure

Please follow the instructions below, starting seven days before your procedure. Make sure you finish all the Picolax, even if your motions are already liquid and clear.

Seven days before the procedure

If you are taking iron tablets please stop taking them but continue all other medications including laxatives.

Four days before the procedure

If you are taking any constipating agents (e.g, loperamide, codeine phosphate etc.) stop taking them. Continue with all other medications until your appointment.

Three to five days before the procedure

Start a low residue diet (a copy of this will accompany this form) and continue this until you start taking your bowel preparation medication. For the best results in cleansing the bowel a low fibre diet is advised. Eating other foods may affect how well the bowel preparation works to ensure good views of your bowel during your procedure. You may have already been advised to commence before three days as part of your initial consultation.

You should also start taking your additional laxatives, Senna, Bisacodyl or Laxido as recommended by your healthcare professional.

The day before the procedure

Take your regular morning medicines unless you have been instructed otherwise.

Please do not eat solid food on the day before your capsule test, this is because it will affect how the bowel preparation works. Your bowel must be completely empty to ensure we have clear views during your procedure.

You **should not** eat any further solid food until after your procedure and indicated to do so. However, you may drink clear fluids throughout the day. This should preferably be water, but you can also have tonic water, tea or coffee without milk, soft drinks (non-fizzy) including squash (no red or blackcurrant) clear fruit juices without pulp/bits (for example clear apple juice), Bovril.

7pm

Make up your **first dose** of Picolax by dissolving one sachet in a cup of cold water (approximately 150ml). Stir for two to three minutes and then drink the solution. Sometimes the solution becomes warm as the Picolax dissolves. If this happens, wait until it cools sufficiently before drinking it.

Following the first dose of Picolax, drink at least five 250ml drinks of clear fluids (preferably water) - at least one glass per hour. You should continue to drink plenty of clear fluids throughout the day.

You should expect frequent bowel motions and eventually watery diarrhoea. Some stomach discomfort is normal. Please use a barrier cream if your bottom becomes sore and stay within easy reach of the toilet.

On the day of your procedure

Do not eat any solid food until indicated on the capsule recorder.

Make up your **second dose** of Picolax at least five hours before the appointment time of your colon capsule procedure, even if this means you getting up early.

For example, if your appointment is at 9am - you need to take your Picolax at 4am.

Dissolve the second sachet in a cup of cold water (approximately 150ml). Stir for two to three minutes and then drink the solution. Sometimes the solution becomes warm as Picolax dissolves. If this happens, wait until it cools sufficiently before drinking it.

After taking the second dose of Picolax, drink at least five 250ml drinks of clear fluids (preferably water) - at least one glass per hour.

You should continue to drink plenty of clear fluids up until two hours before the procedure, preferably water.

Examples of clear fluids that you may have are water, tea (without milk), coffee (without milk), Bovril, tonic water, squash (no fizzy drinks) (no red or blackcurrant) clear fruit juices without pulp/bits (for example clear apple juice), Bovril.

You should expect to be passing clear fluid bowel motions after taking the second dose of Picolax.



After the procedure

You may eat normally once the examination is over. Introducing a high fibre diet (e.g., wholemeal bread, All Bran etc.) will help you restore your normal bowel pattern, which will usually return within a day or two.

Hints and tips:

- Some people find that drinking the bowel preparation quickly, followed by a small drink of clear apple juice (with no pulp/bits) helps.
- If you feel nauseated while taking the preparation, stop for half an hour before resuming drinking more slowly .
- If you feel bloated, try walking around, suck peppermints or drink peppermint tea.
- **Hydration** is essential for effective bowel preparation - continue to drink plenty of fluids, preferable water.
- Use a barrier cream around your bottom to reduce discomfort.
- Stay near a bathroom.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist, or nurse.

If you become ill or have severe abdominal pain, stop taking the bowel preparation and seek medical advice.

Contact us

If you need to change or cancel your appointment, or you have questions or concerns about preparing your bowel for the colon capsule procedure, please contact the Endoscopy Unit (which is open from Monday to Thursday 8am-8.30pm, and Friday to Sunday, 8am-6pm) using the number on your appointment letter.

In case of emergency

Please contact the out of hours emergency advice line by dialling 111.

Further sources of information

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions

Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Patient Experience Team (PET)

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service.

King's Mill Hospital: 01623 672222

Newark Hospital: 01636 685692

Email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net.

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you. External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them. If you require a full list of references (if relevant) for this leaflet, please email sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

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