

## INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

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# Patency capsule test

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This information sheet contains details about the patency capsule test you are due to take. It explains what a patency capsule is and what the test involves so you know what to expect.

### What is a patency capsule test?

A patency capsule test is a method of checking the small bowel for possible strictures (narrowing) which could prevent the passage of a video capsule and it becoming retained (stuck).

You will be asked to swallow a dissolvable capsule coated in barium; this is the size of a large pill or cod liver oil capsule which shows up on x-ray and is designed to pass down your small bowel. We will then arrange for you to have an x-ray of your abdomen (tummy) the following day. This is to make sure the capsule has passed through the small bowel safely.

### The day before your procedure

Do not have anything to eat from **midday**, you may continue to drink clear fluids and take your normal medications with up to two hours before the test.

### On the day of your procedure

You will be asked to attend the department for **8am** and after a discussion with the nurse you will swallow the patency capsule with water. You will then be allowed home to continue your normal activities, continue taking oral fluids and after 4 hours you may eat as normal.

At **9pm** please take two senna tablets.

### The day after you have swallowed the capsule

The capsule begins to dissolve after 30 hours so you will need to attend King's Mill Hospital's x-ray department at **1pm** for an x-ray of your abdomen; this is to identify the position of the capsule.

If the capsule doesn't pass on its own, you may have a narrowing of your bowel, and the capsule may cause a temporary obstruction. However, the inside of the capsule is designed to melt or dissolve by itself.

If you have seen the capsule pass already, please call the Endoscopy department on 01623, 622515, extension 4076 to inform staff.

### Potential complications and when to seek help

The capsule is normally passed from your body naturally, but rarely it can get stuck if there is a blockage in your bowel.

If you have severe abdominal (tummy) pain or begin to vomit, please either:

- Call the Endoscopy department on 01623 622515, extension 4076 (between 8am and 6pm).
- Call NHS 111.
- Go to your nearest Emergency Department.

### Results and follow up

We will be in touch with you a couple of days after the test.

If the test shows the capsule has passed through, you will be given an appointment for a video capsule test.

If the test shows that a real video capsule will get stuck, you will be referred back to your doctor.

### Contact information

If you need any further information, please contact the Endoscopy department on telephone 01623 622515, extension 4076, between 8am and 6pm.

Patency capsule ingestion time: .....	
Senna tablets – time taken: .....	
X-ray booked? Yes/No (please circle answer) Time of x-ray: .....	
Book for small bowel capsule? Yes/No	Book for colon capsule? Yes/No

### Further sources of information

NHS Choices: [www.nhs.uk/conditions](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions)

Our website: [www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net) or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

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