

## General ERCP Instructions

### What to Expect During Your ERCP

- An ERCP (Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography) allows your doctor to evaluate and treat conditions involving the **bile ducts, gallbladder, pancreas, and liver**.
  - A thin, flexible camera is passed through the mouth into the stomach and small intestine while you are under anesthesia.
  - Contrast dye and X-ray imaging are used to visualize the bile and pancreatic ducts.
  - Therapeutic interventions may be performed, including **stone removal, stent placement, dilation of strictures, or biopsies**.
  - ERCP is a specialized procedure, and some patients may require **overnight observation or hospital admission** after the procedure.
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### Before Your Procedure

 **Baby aspirin (81 mg)**  is OK to continue

 **Blood thinners** 

→ We will obtain **prescriber approval** for you to hold for **2–7 days** prior to the procedure

 **GLP-1 Medications**  (Mounjaro, Ozempic, Trulicity, Wegovy, Semaglutide, etc.)

→ **Hold injection the week prior** unless instructed otherwise

 **Insurance & Billing**  Contact your insurance company to confirm coverage. Coverage and patient responsibility may vary based on findings and your individual insurance plan. You may wish to ask about coverage for the following common procedure codes:

- Diagnostic ERCP: CPT 43260
- ERCP with sphincterotomy: CPT 43262
- ERCP with stone removal: CPT 43264
- ERCP with stent placement: CPT 43274
- ERCP with dilation: CPT 43249

 **Cancellations**  Please provide **72 hours notice** if you need to cancel to allow scheduling of other patients.

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### Risks (Important)

- **Pancreatitis - inflammation of the pancreas**
- Bleeding
- Infection
- Perforation
- Adverse reaction to sedation/anesthesia

# Diet Instructions (Very Important)

## The Day Before Your Procedure

- No bowel prep is required for ERCP.
- You may eat normally unless instructed otherwise.
- Avoid heavy or fatty meals the evening before your procedure.

## Nothing by Mouth (NPO) – Extremely Important

- Do not eat or drink anything for **at least 8 hours** before your procedure.
  - This includes food, liquids, gum, candy, and mints.  
It is okay to brush your teeth in the morning.
  - Essential medications may be taken with a small sip of water **up to 4 hours before the procedure** unless instructed otherwise.
  - Failure to follow NPO instructions may result in **procedure cancellation for safety reasons**.
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## Day of Procedure

 The **hospital will contact you** with your final arrival time and check-in instructions.

 **Arrange a driver** to take you, stay with you, and take you home after the procedure .

 Plan to take the day off from work. Depending on recovery, you may return to normal activity **the following day or as instructed by the hospital team**.

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## After Your Procedure

- You will recover in a monitored area until the sedation wears off.
  - You may experience:
    - Mild sore throat
    - Bloating or gas
    - Temporary abdominal discomfort
  - **Do NOT drive, work, drink alcohol, or make important decisions for 24 hours.**
  - Resume eating as instructed by your physician (often clear liquids initially, then advance as tolerated).
  - If you have severe pain following the procedure, please contact your physician immediately
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