

ROBERT E. FLANIGAN, M.D.
ROBERT J. PAGANO, M.D.
G.I. Specialists, Inc.
(412) 572-6951
FAX (412) 572-6958

St. Clair Professional Office Building
1050 Bower Hill Road, Suite 305
Pittsburgh, PA 15243

PLEASE READ IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIPT

GASTROSCOPY

You are scheduled for a gastroscopy (EGD) and the enclosed material contains all the information you will need to prepare for this test. Instructions to help you find the proper area in the hospital where the test will be performed are also enclosed. **Please read and follow all of the enclosed instructions carefully.**

Gastroscopy is a procedure used to examine, diagnose, and treat many diseases of the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum (first portion of your small intestine.)

The gastroscope is a long, thin, flexible instrument (or "scope") which can actually "see" into the upper gastrointestinal tract. During the procedure an ulcer (or sore) may be found. Since "H. pylori" bacteria can cause ulcers of the stomach (gastric ulcers) or small intestine (duodenal ulcers) tiny samples of tissue (biopsies) may be taken to look for this bacteria. Biopsies may also be taken of gastric ulcers to make sure they are benign (non-cancerous.) The majority of ulcers are benign. Patients do not feel any pain from the biopsies.

Many other disorders of the upper gastrointestinal tract may be diagnosed after a gastroscopy exam. You may discuss any disorders seen during gastroscopy with the physician after the gastroscopy is performed.

Gastroscopy is performed in the private suites of the Gastrointestinal Procedures Unit of the hospital while you are lying down on a procedure table. If you are receiving sedation, an intravenous line will be started, and monitoring equipment will be used to monitor your blood pressure and pulse. You may be given nasal oxygen through a small plastic tube. After the gastroscopy you will be kept in the endoscopy area until the effects of your medication have almost completely worn off.

PLEASE NOTE: It is our office policy to charge a cancellation fee of \$100 for all missed procedures or those procedures not cancelled with our office 3 business days before scheduled time.

*****CONTINUED ON REVERSE*****

INSTRUCTIONS ON THE DAY OF YOUR EXAM WITH SEDATION

You will be receiving conscious sedation which will be administered by the physician performing the procedure.

Your procedure is scheduled on _____ at _____.

Please arrive at the hospital/surgery center at _____

_____ **St. Clair Memorial Hospital Procedures:**

Arrive at the hospital one hour **prior** to the time of your scheduled procedure. Register in the Endoscopy Lab, 3rd floor, St. Clair Hospital. You may reach the Endoscopy Lab by going in the Main Entrance of the hospital (4th floor lobby) and taking the elevators to the 3rd floor. Make a right turn out of the elevators and follow the hallway to the Endoscopy Suite.

HOSPITAL POLICY REQUIRES THAT YOU BRING WITH YOU AN ACCURATE LIST OF YOUR CURRENT MEDICATIONS and A PHOTO ID.

_____ **UPMC South Surgery Center:**

Arrive at the surgery center one hour **prior** to the time of your scheduled procedure. The surgery center is located on the lower level of UPMC South Hills building (see enclosed map). If entering on the lower level, the surgery center is on the right once you enter the doors. Please register there.

All procedures performed at UPMC require sedation by an anesthesiologist. There is an additional professional fee that will be billed by their Anesthesia Department.

BRING A COMPANION. It is **essential** that **someone accompany** you on the day of your procedure. Since sedation medication causes forgetfulness, your companion should stay at the hospital/surgery center during your procedure and be available after the procedure to listen as the physician speaks to you. You should not drive, operate equipment (lawnmowers, power tools, appliances such as a stove, etc.), make important decisions, or consume alcoholic beverages for **24 hours after the test**, as you may be sleepy or may have altered reflexes from the medications given to you prior to the procedure.

Hospital and Surgery Center policy for sedated patients states that you must have an adult available to you for 24 hours following the procedure. Before leaving the hospital/surgery center you will be asked if an adult will be with you for 24 hours before being released.

If you are using a taxi or Access transportation, a responsible adult **must** accompany you. Public bus transportation following a procedure is not acceptable.

Results: Immediately after completing the examination, the physician will discuss the findings with you and make recommendations for follow-up. Your referring physician will be sent a report.

Questions: If you have any questions, please call our office as soon as possible during regular office hours so that we may assist you.

NOTE: Please bring patient history form with you to the hospital if you received one in the mail. Also, please bring your insurance cards and a list of your medications.