

Gastroenterology Associates

Gastroenterology and Hepatology

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DRIVER / ESCORT RESPONSIBILITIES

As our patient, your safety is of utmost importance to us. You will be receiving intravenous sedation during your endoscopy procedure. Although the medications wear off gradually, you will still be under the effects of them when you leave the endoscopy center. For example, your reflexes and thinking may be slower than usual, even though you will be awake when you are discharged. Because of this, we have strict guidelines for you to follow. **Failure to follow these guidelines will result in rescheduling of your procedure, even if you have followed the preparation instructions.**

Read the following information and share it with your escort/driver prior to the date of your planned procedure:

1. You must have a responsible adult escort/driver, age 18 years or older, check in with you at the endoscopy center. This person must remain in the building throughout your procedure and recovery. Ask your escort/driver NOT to make appointments or plans for the time you are scheduled in our facility. DO NOT plan to phone your driver for pick up.
2. Your driver MUST check in with you and speak with the admitting nurse when you arrive at the Endoscopy Center. If your driver does not check in with you, your procedure will be rescheduled. If you have questions about this, contact our office at 360.413.8250.
3. Patients are typically in the Gastroenterology Associates Endoscopy Center (GAEC) 1½-2 hours for gastroscopy and 2-2½ hours for colonoscopy. If you are scheduled at the hospital endoscopy center, a 3-6 hour stay is typical for either procedure. The amount of time you actually spend in endoscopy may be less or more, depending on unforeseen circumstances.
4. Your escort/driver must plan to drive you home immediately after discharge. We ask our patients NOT to go out to eat following their procedure.
5. If you are planning private transportation such as taxi, Dial-A-Ride, Panorama Transport or Paratransit, in addition to the driver, you must still have an additional escort with you. Please bring the phone number of the private transportation service you are using so we can contact them before your procedure starts to confirm pick up time.
6. All patients receive written discharge instructions and information regarding their procedure. While your physician will talk with you briefly following your procedure, you may not remember part or all of that conversation due to the medications you received.
7. As authorized by you prior to your procedure, your physician will speak with your escort/driver regarding the findings of your exam and plan for your care while you are still in the recovery room.

Thank you for helping us to protect your health and safety.