

# Discharge advice following surgery on the Enhanced Recovery Programme

Complications following bowel surgery do not occur very often. However, as you are being discharged only a few days after your operation, it is important that you know what to look out for if problems arise.

The most serious complication after bowel surgery, is a leakage of fluid from the area where the bowel has been joined together. If this happens you may have the following symptoms:

- severe abdominal pain
- fever
- swollen tummy
- feeling generally unwell and tired

Secondly, your bowel may stop working altogether, or may be slow to get back to normal. This can result in you having the following symptoms:

- vomiting
- abdominal pain
- bowels not open

You may also experience some bleeding from your back passage after your operation. Some bleeding is to be expected. However, it is not normal to experience heavy bleeding that does not stop.

**Therefore, if you have any of the above symptoms you need to take the following action immediately:**

Contact the ward where you had your operation on the number below:

- Ward 728: 0121 371 7297

There is always someone on the ward, so even if you become unwell during the night you can still phone the above number.

Once you have spoken to the ward staff they will be able to discuss your symptoms with the medical team. If there is any concern you will be asked to return to the ward for review. It may be necessary for you to be readmitted.



The Trust provides free monthly health talks on a variety of medical conditions and treatments. For more information visit [www.uhb.nhs.uk/health-talks.htm](http://www.uhb.nhs.uk/health-talks.htm) or call 0121 371 4957.

**Ward 728**

**Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham**  
Mindelsohn Way, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2GW  
Telephone: 0121 371 7297

**Colorectal CNS Contact Number: 0121 371 4501**

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