

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.

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.

Department address and contact information:

Ward 12

Solihull Hospital, Lode Ln

Solihull B91 2JL

Telephone: 0121 424 4222 or 0121 424 5222

Colorectal CNS Contact Number: 0121 371 4501

If you require this information in another format, such as a different language, large print, braille or audio version please ask a member of staff or email patientexperience@uhb.nhs.uk.