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ARRIVE: \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM  
AT: \_\_\_\_\_  
FOLLOW UP ON: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## **ENDOSCOPIC RETORGRADE CHOLANGIOPANCREATOGRAPHY (ERCP)**

### **WHAT IS ERCP?**

ERCP is a procedure by which a flexible, lighted fiberoptic tube is passed through the mouth, into the stomach, and then into the duodenum. A small tube is passed through a tiny muscular opening that leads into the pancreatic and common bile ducts. Dye is injected through the cannula and x-rays are taken in order to study the ductal systems of the pancreas, bile ducts, or gallbladder, depending upon which is being evaluated.

### **WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR PERFORMING ERCP?**

ERCP is performed primarily to identify and/or correct a problem if the bile ducts or pancreas. An abnormality suspected by clinical history, blood tests or x-ray can be confirmed and studied in detail. Many times a problem can be treated and relieved.

### **WHAT PREPARATION IS REQUIRED**

The best possible examination requires the stomach be completely empty. You should have nothing to eat or drink after midnight (including water) prior to the examination.

You will need to make arrangements for someone to bring you and to stay in the building while you are there AND who will provide a ride home, once you are discharged. NO DRIVING, NO ALCOHOL, NO STRENUOUS ACTIVITY the remainder of the day.

### **WHAT SHOULD YOU EXPECT DURING THE PROCEDURE?**

The ERCP is performed in an x-ray room. The nurse will help position you on the x-ray table. You will be given IV sedation to you are comfortable throughout the procedure. Your throat will be sprayed with a numbing solution.

### **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER ERCP?**

You will remain at the out-patient department until most of the effects of the sedation have worn off. You may feel bloated and might have a soft bowel movement because of the air and dye that were introduced during the examination.

You will be able to resume your normal diet after the examination, unless otherwise instructed. The physician will be in to see you before you go home to tell you the results of the procedure. You may not remember this because of the sedation. However, whoever is there to take you home can listen to what the physician has to say.

### **ARE THERE ANY COMPLICATIONS FROM ERCP?**

ERCP is safe and is associated with a very low risk of complication when performed by physicians who have been specially trained and are experienced in this highly specialized procedure. Complications can occur but are uncommon.