

# Rectal Surgery

The following instructions are provided to assist you with planning your self care and recovery after your operation.

1. You must have a responsible adult accompany you home and stay with you overnight.
2. Plan on getting an adequate amount of rest for a few days following your operation. Return to normal activity gradually.
3. You are advised that you should not operate a motor vehicle, machinery, or perform any tasks requiring skill, co-ordination or judgment, or make any legal decisions within 24 hours after your operation.
4. Take all of your regular medications as you took them before your operation, unless instructed otherwise.
5. Take pain medications as prescribed. Try to avoid constipation by eating high fiber foods, drinking plenty of fluids and use a stool softener or mild laxative if needed. Your local pharmacist can be of assistance in choosing these products.
6. Resume your regular diet as tolerated. Do not drink any alcoholic beverages including beer and wine, or use any recreational drugs 24 hours after your surgery.
7. It is important to have emptied your bladder (passed your urine) within 6 hours of returning home. If not, return to the Emergency Department of the nearest hospital.
8. Have a sitz bath twice a day and after a bowel movement, or as ordered by your Doctor, to keep the area clean and to relieve local irritation. Fill a tub a quarter full of warm water and add 1 tablespoon of salt or Epsom salts. Sit and soak for 5-15 minutes. Continue sitz baths until your incision or site is healed.
9. You may shower as desired.
10. Contact your Doctor or seek medical attention if any of the following occurs:
  - Signs of infection, including fever and chills
  - Redness, swelling, increasing pain, excessive bleeding, or discharge at the incision site.
  - Cough, shortness of breath, chest pain
  - Pain that you cannot control with the medication that you have been given.
  - Nausea and/or vomiting that you cannot control or which persist for more than two days after your surgery.
  - Pain and/or swelling in your feet, calves or legs.

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**If you have any concerns:**

- ... call your surgeon/doctor,
- ... or call Telehealth 1-866-797-0000
- ... or come to the Emergency Department at Georgian Bay General Hospital

11. The day after your surgery call your Surgeon's office for your \_\_\_\_\_ week(s) follow-up appointment.

Specific Instructions:

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