

Welcome

At Benefis Gastroenterology, our mission is to serve you with comprehensive, personalized, effective gastrointestinal treatment, and to promote your ongoing health and wellness.

This packet includes important information regarding your upcoming procedure, such as:

- **What to eat and when**
- **Driving arrangements**
- **Preparation Instructions**

Your procedure is scheduled for: _____.
Date

Please arrive at _____ a.m. / p.m.
Time

Your provider is _____.

Procedure Location:

Benefis Endoscopy
5th Floor, South Tower
Benefis East Campus
1101 26th Street South
Great Falls, MT 59405

If you need to cancel or reschedule your procedure, please notify us as soon as possible by calling **(406) 731-8384**.

Preparing for Your Upper Endoscopy Procedure (EGD)

Please carefully follow the procedure instructions, which are necessary for the safety of your procedure. If you have any questions, please call (406) 731-8384 and ask to speak to a nurse.

One Week Before Your Procedure:

- **If you are taking any of the blood thinning medications listed below**, please consult your cardiologist or prescribing provider about stopping your blood thinning medication ahead of time. Please let us know immediately if the time frames listed below are not acceptable to that provider.
 - **Brilinta (Ticagrelor)** Stop taking five (5) days prior to your procedure.
 - **Coumadin (Warfarin)** Stop taking five (5) days prior to your procedure.
 - **Effient (Presugrel)** Stop taking seven (7) days prior to your procedure.
 - **Eliquis (Apixaban)** Stop taking two (2) days prior to your procedure.
 - **Plavix (Clopidogrel)** Stop taking seven (7) days prior to your procedure.
 - **Pradaxa (Dabigatran)** Stop taking five (5) days prior to your procedure.
 - **Savaysa (Edoxaban)** Stop taking one (2) day prior to your procedure.
 - **Xarelto (Rivaroxaban)** Stop taking two (2) days prior to your procedure.
 - **Pletal (Cilostazol)** Stop taking four (4) days prior to your procedure.
 - **Elmiron (Pentosan Polysulfate Sodium)** Stop taking two (2) days prior to your procedure.

No solid foods, hard candies, gum, lozenges, or chewing tobacco starting at midnight the day of your procedure.

You may have clear liquids (no purple or red) up to four hours before the procedure, then nothing to eat or drink until after your procedure is complete.

Examples of Clear Liquids: broth, clear juice, water, soda, Gatorade, popsicles, Jello-O, and Coffee (Do NOT add milk, cream, or a non-dairy creamer).

The Morning of Your Procedure:

- **If you are on anti-seizure or beta-blocker medications**, make sure to take them on the morning of your procedure. You can take these with small sips of water.
- **Do not take diuretics or long- or short- acting diabetic medication (including oral medication)** the morning of your procedure. If you are diabetic, make sure to check your blood sugar the morning of your procedure. Contact your endocrinologist or primary care provider with questions.

Contact your insurance company to determine if pre-authorization is required. **DO** not assume your procedure is automatically covered. You may still be responsible for a deductible or copayment.

What to Expect from Your Upper Endoscopy Procedure (EGD):

A nurse will start an IV when you arrive for your procedure. Your provider will speak with you about what to expect during your procedure. Before the procedure begins, a mouthpiece will be placed in your mouth that protects your teeth from the scope and keeps your mouth open. After the mouthpiece is placed, an anesthesia provider or a nurse directed by the physician will give you medication through your IV to make you sleepy. While under sedation, a lighted flexible tube will be passed through your mouth into your esophagus, stomach, and the duodenum (the first part of the small intestine). Biopsies can be taken, if necessary, but you will not feel this during the procedure. You will be monitored closely throughout the procedure.

After Your Procedure:

It is your responsibility to have someone take you home from the hospital; you cannot drive after the procedure due to the IV sedation.

It is **required** that someone stay with you until the next morning. You should avoid operating any machinery, going to work, or signing any legal documents for the rest of the day.

You should be able to return to work the next day.

Additional Resources:

Benefis Financial Counselors

(406) 455-3535

Benefis Medical Records

(406) 455-5642

Benefis Native American Welcoming Center

(406) 455-5197

Benefis Gastroenterology Clinic

(406) 731-8394

If you are on a weight loss or diabetic medication not listed below, please call 406-731-8384 to speak with a nurse regarding pre-procedure medication requirements.

To prepare for your upcoming procedure/surgery:

DAILY Exenatide (Byetta®) Liraglutide (Victoza®) Lixisenatide (Adlyxin®) Semaglutide tablets (Rybelsus®)	STOP 2 days prior to surgery date	GLP-1 Receptor Agonists
WEEKLY Albiglutide (Tanzeum®) Dulaglutide (Trulicity®) Exenatide XR (Bydureon®) Tirzepatide (Mounjaro®) Semaglutide (Ozempic®, Wegovy®)	STOP minimum 7 days before surgical date; STOP 14 days if possible	GLP-1 Receptor Agonists
Canagliflozin (Invokana®) Dapagliflozin (Farxiga®) Empagliflozin (Jardiance®) Bexagliflozin (Brenzavvy®)	STOP 3 days prior to surgery date	SGLT2-Inhibitors
Ertugliflozin (Steglatro®)	STOP 4 days prior to surgery date	

If you are taking these medications **daily**, you will want to **STOP** taking them two days prior to your procedure and **DO NOT** take day of your procedure/surgery.

If you are taking these medications **weekly**, you will want to **STOP** taking them seven days prior to your procedure and **DO NOT** take day of your procedure/surgery.

If you are unable to stop this medication you will want to consult with your prescribing provider.

If these medications are not stopped following the appropriate guidelines your procedure/surgery may be canceled and rescheduled.

Benefis Surgical Services & Endoscopy

Your Care with *Epic!*

We have a new look with our upgraded electronic medical record system! You may notice changes to our processes. Epic allows us to offer many important features, including a single bill for hospital and provider services.



Benefis Health System is excited to usher in a new era of patient care with Epic MyChart, our new patient portal.

With MyChart, you'll be connected to more tools than ever to help you take charge of your health. It is the top-ranked medical app and used by 178 million people worldwide.

In Epic MyChart, you can:

- Access your health records and message your providers.
- Schedule appointments and request medication refills.
- Get screening reminders.
- Ensure providers even at different locations have the most up-to-date information about your care.
- Pay your bill and take advantage of prompt pay discounts.
- Support family members through medical care, even if you're a thousand miles away.
- Complete appointment-related questionnaires in advance of your appointment right from your phone!

Your health records are secure and safe with Epic's cutting-edge technology.

To sign up for MyChart, scan the QR code below or visit Benefis.org/MyChart.



Benefis
HEALTH SYSTEM

Epic