



Patency Capsule Instructions

Date: ***	Time: ***
Location: 180 Sawgrass Dr. Ste 230, Rochester, NY 14620	

Why do I have to do a patency capsule test?

A patency capsule test helps your provider check for places in your intestines that might be too narrow or small for a pill camera to pass. The pill camera is the special camera your provider will use to record videos and take pictures inside your intestines during a video capsule endoscopy. One of the rare things that can happen when the pill camera tries to move like food through your intestines is that it can get stuck. The patency capsule test is a way to see if this could happen by using a “practice pill” that melts away over time if it gets stuck.

What is in a patency capsule?

The patency capsule is a pill about the size of a vitamin. It is biodegradable and is made of a lactose coating with barium which is a type of dye and a tiny ID tag on the inside that help the capsule be seen on x-rays. It dissolves, or melts away, after about 30 hours if you do not pass it out during a bowel movement.

Important things to know about patency capsule testing:

- During your test you will need to get a series of 3 x-rays over a 2 day period. If you see the test capsule in your stool, please call the office at 585-275-4711 as you may not need to get all 3 x-rays.
- When you are having this test do not go near any MRI machines.
- There is a very small chance the capsule can get stuck in your intestines and cause you to become sick. If you develop significant abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting or fevers call the office immediately and ask them to page a nurse, or seek evaluation in your nearest Emergency Department.



Please follow the instructions on how to get ready for your test

The day of your test:

- You may take your regular medications unless your provider told you to stop specific ones in the morning.
- You may eat and drink normally the day of your test.
- Come to your appointment at ***a.m. at 180 Sawgrass Dr, Office of Gastroenterology.
- A nurse will instruct you to swallow the patency capsule. You can go back to your normal activities.
- Start monitoring all bowel movements you have from now on to look for the patency capsule.
- You can continue to eat and drink normally throughout the day.
- At 4:30 pm go to a URMC Radiology Department and get your first x-ray.
- Answer you phone and be prepared to check MyChart, as the office may contact you to take a laxative or tell you to get x-rays at a different time.

The day after your test:

- At 9 am go to a URMC Radiology Department and get your next x-ray.
- At 4:30 pm go to a URMC Radiology Department and get your last x-ray.

2-3days after your test:

If you have not heard from your provider, please call the office at 585-275-4711 to see if you can be scheduled for the video capsule endoscopy.