

GastroIntestinal Endoscopy

Since 1985, GastroIntestinal Endoscopy (GIE) has provided open access endoscopy services across Brisbane. Open access endoscopy provides General Practitioners and Specialists with the option to directly refer a patient for an endoscopy, without the requirement to have a prior consultation with a gastroenterologist.

Upper gastrointestinal endoscopy and colonoscopy can be performed either in hospital or day surgery facilities. A suitable patient must have no serious medical conditions which may compromise the safety of the procedure, and may be referred for a variety of indications such as:

- Change in bowel habit
- Diarrhoea or constipation
- Rectal or upper gastrointestinal bleeding
- Previous polyps or cancer
- Family history of intestinal polyps or cancer
- Coeliac disease
- Abdominal pain
- Indigestion/reflux/heartburn/chest pain
- Difficulty swallowing
- Nausea/vomiting
- Anaemia
- Barrett's oesophagus

At GastroIntestinal Endoscopy, our experienced team of Gastroenterologists, work with your GP or Specialist to provide accessible and quality care to investigate and maintain your gastrointestinal health.

GastroIntestinal Endoscopy Locations

GastroIntestinal Endoscopy

Unit 6, 504 Lutwyche Road,
Lutwyche QLD 4030
Phone: 07 3169 0146
Fax: 07 TBC

Brisbane Endoscopy Services

Suites 16–18 McCullough Centre
259 McCullough Street, Sunnybank QLD 4109
Phone: 07 3344 1844
Fax: 07 3344 2739

Chermside Day Hospital

Chermside Medical Complex
Level 1, 956 Gympie Road, Chermside QLD 4032
Phone: 07 3120 3407
Fax: 07 3120 3443

North West Private Hospital

Endoscopy Unit
137 Flockton Street, Everton Park QLD 4053
Phone: 07 3353 3322
Fax: 07 3353 9325

The Wesley Hospital

Endoscopy Unit, 451 Coronation Drive,
Auchenflower QLD 4066
Phone: 07 3870 3799
Fax: 07 3870 5069



INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Open Access Endoscopy

"Our Mission at GastroIntestinal Endoscopy is to deliver experienced and accessible endoscopy services with the highest quality of healthcare standards to improve the health outcomes of patients and the communities we serve."

Like us on Facebook
f www.facebook.com/giebrisbane

For all appointments call
1300 442 787 (1300 4 GASTRO)
www.gastros.com.au

Bookings

Once you have been given a referral letter to Gastrointestinal Endoscopy from your GP or specialist, you can call our central bookings number 1300 4 GASTRO (1300 4 427876) to schedule your procedure at a location and time that is suitable for you. The majority of bookings can be accommodated within two weeks. Patients having a colonoscopy will require an appointment with a GIE registered nurse who will review the patient's medical history and provide detailed instructions on the bowel preparation.

If you have other serious medical problems, diabetes, marked obesity or are taking blood-thinning medications, this information must be available to the GIE staff at the time of the booking. Sometimes a consultation is required with one of our gastroenterologists prior to the procedure if there are medical issues which require addressing. It is also important that a responsible adult is available to be with you during both the preparation and the recovery period.

You will be mailed all the relevant information and instructions regarding the hospital admission and the procedure which you need to read prior to commencing the preparation for the procedure. Our friendly staff are available to answer any questions or concerns which you may have.

What is endoscopy?

Endoscopes are long, thin, flexible tubes with video cameras and a light at their tip which can be passed by the gastroenterologist through the mouth into the upper gastrointestinal tract (**upper endoscopy or gastroscopy**), or through the anus into the colon (**colonoscopy**). The image of the intestinal tract is relayed to a video monitor and is carefully examined by the gastroenterologist. Fine instruments can also be passed through the endoscope and biopsies taken or polyps removed. The procedures are performed while under sedation which is administered by an anaesthetist.

During **upper endoscopy**, the gastroenterologist examines your oesophagus, stomach and duodenum (the first part of the small intestine), and can detect abnormalities such as inflammation, ulcers or tumours in these regions, and also with the help of biopsies diagnose conditions such as Helicobacter infection, Coeliac disease, Barrett's oesophagus or cancer.

During **colonoscopy**, the gastroenterologist examines your rectum and colon and often the end of the small intestine. This enables detection of conditions such as diverticular disease or haemorrhoids, biopsy of any abnormalities and also removal of polyps which have the potential to become cancerous.

Before the procedure

Before the procedure, the gastroenterologist will consult briefly with you to discuss your history and advise you of the risks and benefits of the procedure. You will then be given intravenous sedation by a specialist anaesthetist to keep you comfortable during the procedure. Some patients may occasionally be slightly aware of what is going on in the room but will not experience any discomfort or pain. The anaesthetist monitors your vital functions during the procedure.

Following the procedure

You will remain in the recovery area for an hour or two until the sedation has subsided. A drink and snack will be provided. The major effects of the anaesthetic wear off rapidly; however, minor effects on memory, balance and muscle function may persist for some hours. A responsible adult needs to accompany you home and stay with you for 12 hours after the procedure. **The procedure may have to be cancelled if this has not been organised.** You must not drive or operate any machinery, sign important documents or care for minors for 12 hours after the procedure.

On discharge, you will be given a typed report addressed to your referring doctor regarding the procedure and any follow-up instructions. Should any serious abnormality be found, the gastroenterologist will discuss this with you. Your referring doctor will be sent a detailed report on the day of the procedure. A few days following the procedure, you may follow up the report and pathology results with your referring doctor.

Patients requiring further endoscopic follow up will be entered into our recall register and both you and your referring doctor will be notified by mail when your follow up is due.

