



# Taking Plenvu bowel preparation before surgery

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**This leaflet will provide you with advice and instructions for taking Plenvu bowel preparation in readiness for your operation. When taking bowel preparation, we highly recommend staying near a toilet to prevent accidents. We strongly suggest you do not go to work when taking this laxative.**

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## Why do I need this preparation?

Plenvu bowel preparation is a bowel cleaning medication, which is used to clear the bowel to reduce the risk of post-operative complications. Please follow the instructions to achieve the best results. If the bowel is not properly prepared, the procedure may not be able to go ahead.

## What will the preparation do?

The preparation has a laxative effect and will make you empty your bowels (have a poo). It is important you take all the preparation to ensure the bowel is clean before the operation.

After completing the bowel preparation, it is recommended you keep drinking clear fluids to prevent dehydration. If you feel light-headed, have a glucose drink, e.g. Lucozade / sport energy drinks or lemonade.

**You may experience stomach cramps and diarrhoea during the preparation; this is normal.** If you experience severe stomach pains or vomiting, take the preparation more slowly until these feelings stop. If the symptoms continue, seek medical advice from your GP or contact the General Surgery Team – contact details at the end of this leaflet.

Adult alcohol-free and fragrance-free wet wipes or soft toilet tissue may minimise the expected irritation from wiping your bottom. Also, applying petroleum jelly (Vaseline) before and after bowel movements may be helpful.

## Before your procedure:

- 3 to 4 days before, avoid eating foods high in fibre, such as pulses, vegetables, nuts and seeds or seeded breads.
- 5 days before, stop taking stool bulking agents, such as Fybogel or Laxido.
- 7 days before, stop taking iron tablets, such as Ferrous Sulphate or Ferrous Fumarate.
- 3 to 4 days before, stop taking constipating agents, such as Loperamide or Codeine Phosphate.

## Dietary advice before the procedure

- We advise that you only eat low fibre foods three or four days before the procedure. Low fibre foods include white meat, skinless chicken, grilled or poached fish, white bread, rice, pasta, boiled or mashed potatoes, cheese, eggs, tofu, butter, margarine, ice-cream, custard, natural plain yogurt or jam/marmalade without lumps.

- **Avoid high fibre foods.** High fibre foods includes red meat, sausages, pies, vegetables with skin, fruit or salad, nuts, seeds, pulses, including baked beans, puddings containing fruit or nuts, cakes and biscuits, wholemeal pasta, brown rice, brown bread and potato skins or chips.

## Clear fluids

**Remember, you can keep drinking until 6am on the morning of surgery.** Clear fluids are non-cloudy or transparent, you can drink water, herbal tea, black tea or coffee with **no milk**, clear white soup, diluted cordials (not blackcurrant) and clear fruit juice (without pulp) etc. You can suck clear boiled sweets or mints.

## Timetable for the preparation:

You need to start preparing **one day before your appointment.**

## Preparing your Plenvu (after 8am the day before your operation)

- Open the Plenvu carton and remove the Dose1 sachet.
- Pour contents of Dose1 sachet into a large container that can hold at least 500mls of fluid.
- Add water to make up to 500mls and stir until the powder has fully dissolved. This may take several minutes.
- Chilling the mixture in a refrigerator may make it taste better.

Please follow the instructions below:

### The day before your appointment:

- **Before 8am:** Eat a light low fibre breakfast (see above). **Avoid nuts and seeded breads.**
- **At 8am: Stop all solid food.** You can now make up your Plenvu solution and keep it in the fridge to make it easier to drink later (see instructions above).
- **Only clear** fluids are allowed after breakfast.
- **At 1pm: Slowly sip all** the Plenvu mixture **over 30-60 minutes.** You **MUST** also drink another 500mls of clear fluids over the next 60 minutes.
- **At 6pm:** Make up Dose 2 of Plenvu. (You can do this one hour before and refrigerate).
  - Open the carton and remove the Dose 2 sachets A and B.
  - Pour the contents of Dose 2 sachets A and B into a large container that can hold at least 500mls of fluids.
  - Add water to make up 500mls and stir until all the powder has fully dissolved. This may take several minutes.
- **Slowly sip all** the mixture, **over 30-60 minutes.** You **MUST** also drink another 500mls of clear fluids over the next 60 minutes.

**You will start to feel the effects within 2 hours of the first/second dose. Stay close to the toilet until you feel that your bowel is completely empty.**

**It is important you do not eat after you've started drinking Plenvu; however, KEEP DRINKING CLEAR FLUIDS to prevent dehydration.**

## The day of your surgery:

- No solid food and only clear fluids up to 6am on the day of the operation.

## Summary

First 500mls of Plenvu (Dose 1) Day before operation			Rest	Second 500mls of Plenvu (Dose 2) Day before operation		
<b>Stop eating</b>	<b>Sip</b> the first 500mls of Plenvu between	You <b>must</b> drink a minimum of 500mls of clear fluids		<b>Sip</b> second 500mls of Plenvu between	You <b>must</b> drink a minimum of 500mls of clear fluids	Intended bedtime
8am	1pm-2pm	2pm-5pm		6pm-7pm	7pm-8pm	10pm-11pm

## Contacting us

If you have any questions or would like further advice, please contact General Surgery Team on 0118 322 6890 or email [rbb-tr.cat3@nhs.net](mailto:rbb-tr.cat3@nhs.net)

To find out more about our Trust visit [www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk](http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk)

**Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.**

RBFT General Surgery Department, August 2025

Next review due: August 2027