

# Information for Patients with a Seton

## Patient Information

Colorectal Surgery

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During your operation a fistula was found. This is an abnormal tunnel from the lower bowel (rectum) that opens on to the skin around your bottom.

## Position of Seton

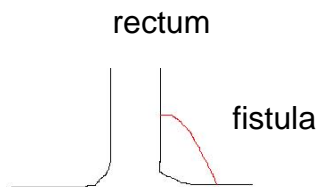


Diagram 1

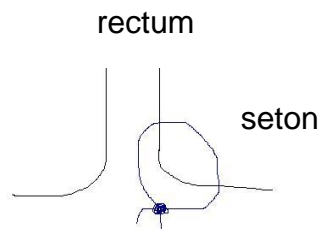


Diagram 2

A Seton has been placed through the tunnel to help the pus drain out. This is a soft rubber-like thread that has a knot on the outside (Diagram 2). The Seton is part of the long-term treatment for your fistula and will not cure it straight away.

## Benefits

The benefits of having a Seton are that it should reduce discomfort and infection around the anus.

## Alternatives

There are no alternatives.

## Risks

There are no risks, but you may notice a discharge from the skin. This is normal.

## After the Seton has been placed

The Seton should be comfortable and should not affect bathing, swimming, going to the toilet or sexual activity. It should be left in place for a period of time, which is determined by how the fistula improves when you are seen in the out-patient clinic.

## Contact information

If the Seton comes out, please contact the colorectal secretary on telephone 01942 822557 and we will arrange to replace it.

Please use this space to write notes or reminders.

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## Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends and carers.

## Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager  
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary  
Wigan Lane  
Wigan WN1 2NN

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## Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the pros and cons of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



[https://www.wrightingtonhospital.org.uk/media/downloads/sdm\\_information\\_leaflet.pdf](https://www.wrightingtonhospital.org.uk/media/downloads/sdm_information_leaflet.pdf)

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## How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use and store the information we hold about you, please take a look at our “how we use your information” leaflet which can be found on the Trust website: [wwl.nhs.uk](http://wwl.nhs.uk)

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This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille and other languages upon request. For more information please ask in the department/ward.

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