Endoscopy is a word we use to describe any of our tests which require a flexible tube to be passed inside the body. The endoscopy unit performs different tests which include:

- Gastroscopy
- Flexible sigmoidoscopy
- Colonoscopy
- Bronchoscopy
- ERCP

Some tests have an option of having a sedative injection to help you relax through the test. The sedative is given by injection through a cannula inserted into one of your veins (usually your arm or hand). A sedative injection is not a general anaesthetic (it will not knock you out), so you will be able to turn over or move when asked to during your test. Having sedation is a personal choice and difficult to advise people how to decide what is best for them.

Generally sedation is not required for a gastroscopy, flexible sigmoidoscopy, and 1 in 3 people now have a colonoscopy without sedation.

A bronchoscopy test and ERCP test usually requires sedation.

Are there any risks or complications with sedation?

National information and records show:

- One patient in every 5,000 has heart or lung complications after an endoscopy examination with sedation.
- One in every 30,000 dies after an endoscopy examination with sedation

Sedation Information:

- Makes you feel drowsy and relaxed
- Can have strong amnesic effects
- Can last in your body for up to 24 hours
- You must avoid driving a care or riding a bicycle for 12 hours
- Do not operate any machinery or do anything that requires skill or judgement
- Do not make any important decisions or sign any legal documents
- Do not drink alcohol for 12 hours
It is essential that someone takes you home and stays with you for the next 12 to 24 hours. If you go home by ambulance, you must have someone at home when you return. When you get home you should rest and relax.

If you are worried about these risks please ask to talk to the endoscopist.

For further advise you can contact the Endoscopy Unit Tel: 01246 512197