

# SHORT BOWEL SYNDROME AND INTESTINAL REHABILITATION

An Activity Book for Kids  
**Going Through  
Intestinal Rehab**



Transplant  
**UNWRAPPED**

# My Very Own Intestinal Transplant Activity Book

My name is\_\_\_\_\_.

I am\_\_\_\_\_ years old.

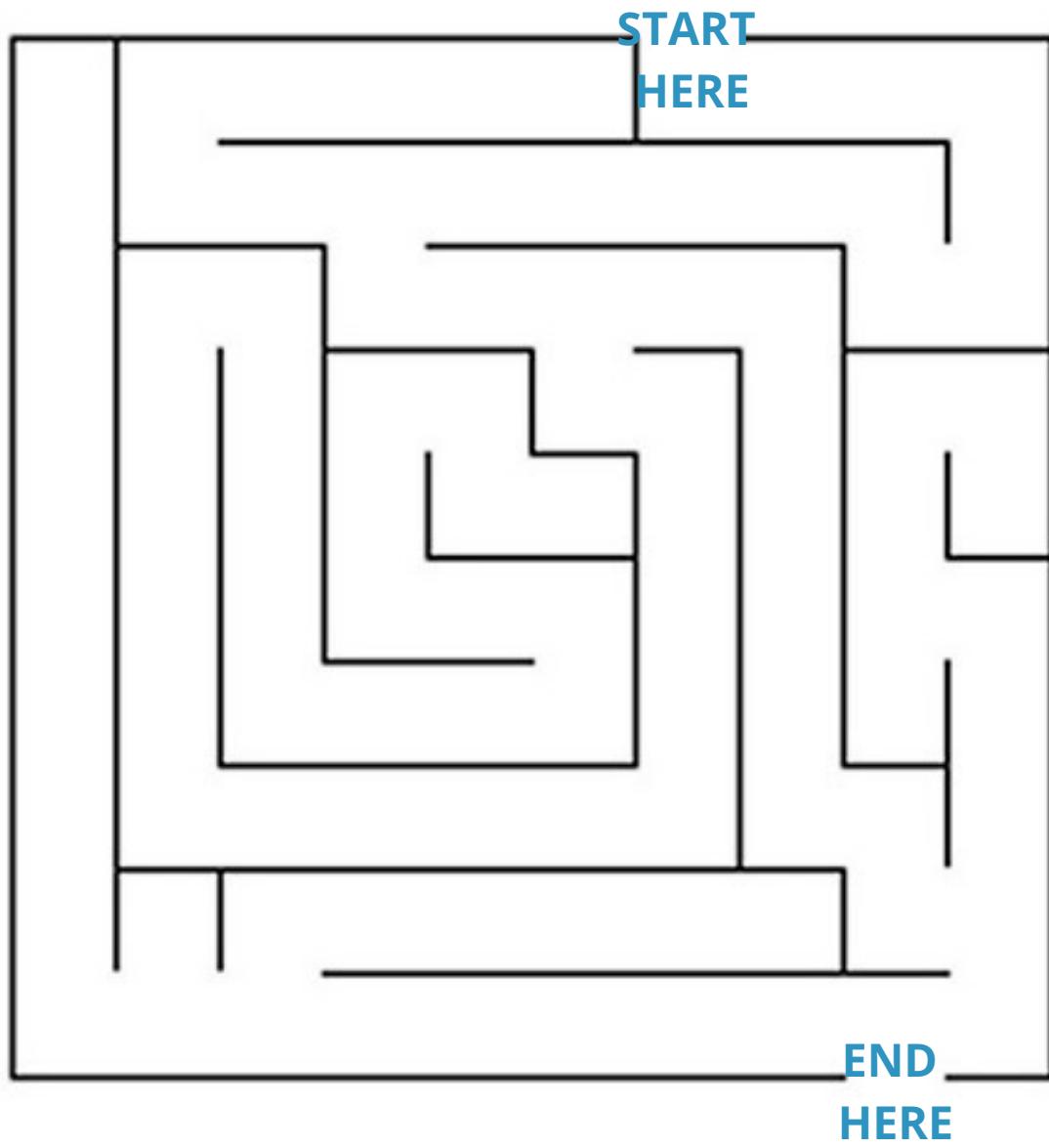
I was born on \_\_\_\_\_ (month) \_\_\_\_\_(day) \_\_\_\_\_  
(year).

**Here is a picture of my family and I. (Either draw a picture or glue in a photo taken)**

Usually the small intestine is long and windy, like the maze on the next page, but...

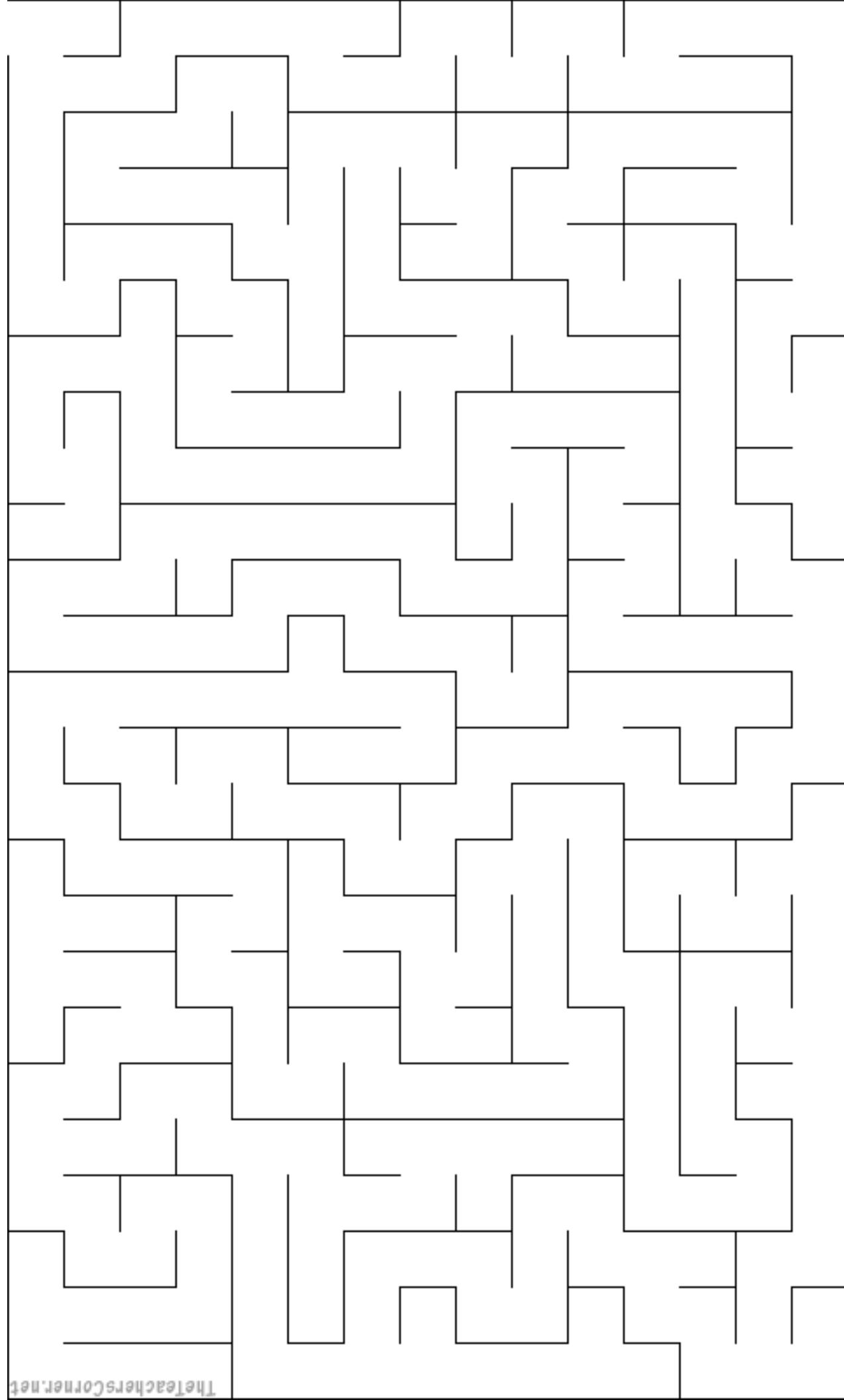
When you were born, your doctor told your parents that your intestine, the part inside your belly that helps to absorb the food and drink you consume, was too short, like the short maze below. This is known as **short bowel syndrome (SBS)**.

This means you cannot eat enough by mouth to be able to grow big and strong.



**START  
HERE**

Think of  
this  
maze  
like  
your  
long  
windy  
small  
bowel.



The  
small  
bowel  
grows  
to be  
23  
feet  
long.  
That  
is a  
lot of  
gut!

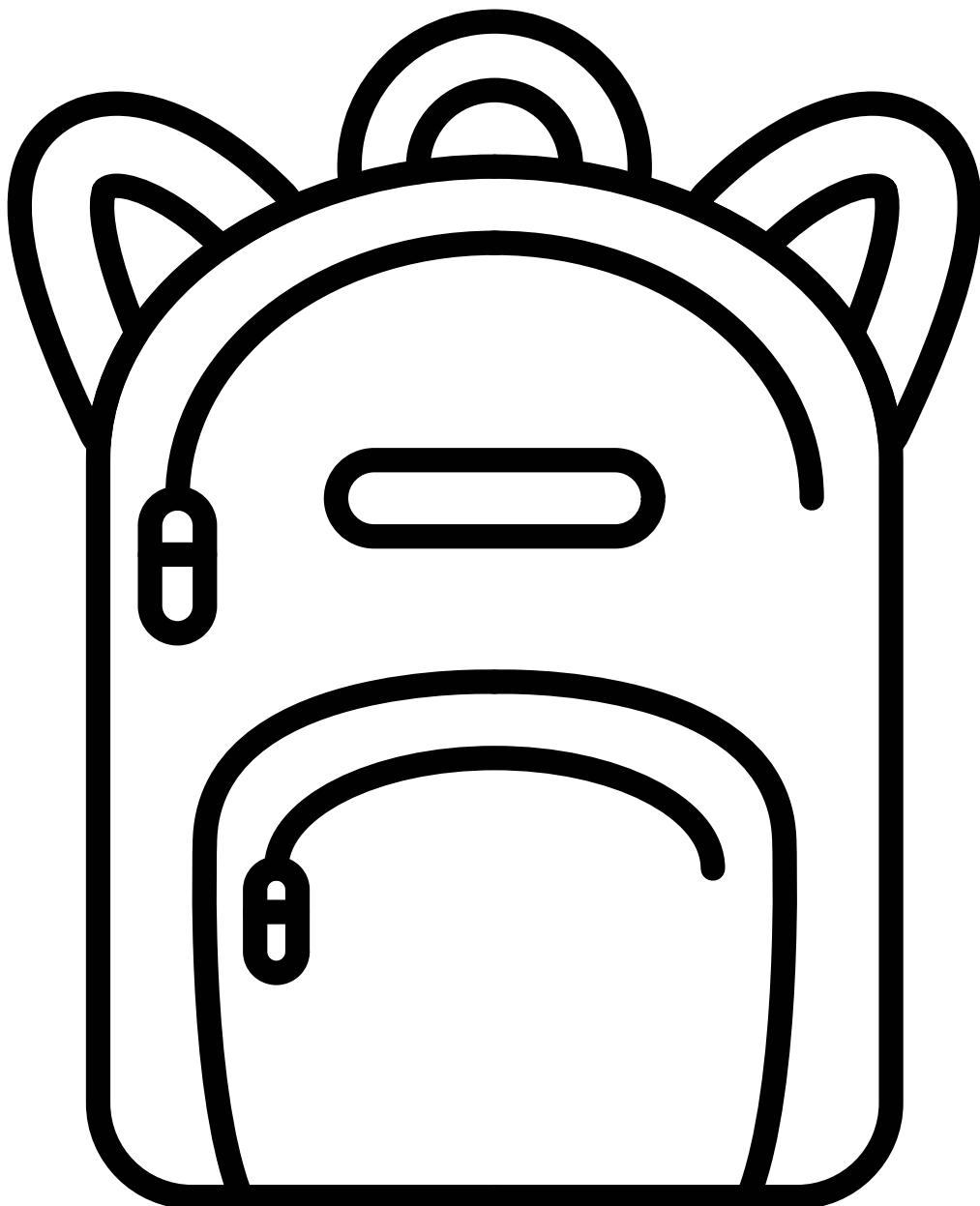


If you cannot eat enough by mouth, you may need to get nutrients through your veins.

This is called **total parenteral nutrition** or TPN.

Other kids may get nutrition through a special tube in their stomach or intestine. This is called **tube feeding** or **enteral nutrition**.

Most kids put their TPN or tube feeds in a backpack. If your backpack could look as cool as you wanted, what would the design be? Show the design below!



# Enteral Nutrition

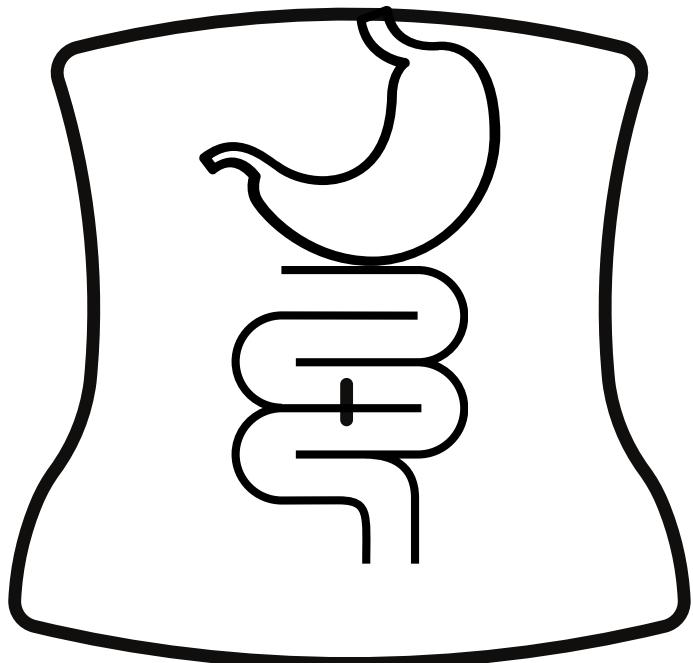
If you cannot eat enough by mouth, your doctor may suggest getting a small tube placed in your belly so special formula can be given via the tube directly into your stomach or intestine.

**Draw the type of tube you have on the figure:**

A **G-Tube** is when the tube goes into your stomach.

A **J-Tube** is when the tube goes into the second part of your small intestine called the jejunum.

Sometimes you may have a temporary tube. This is called an **NG-Tube**. It is when the tube goes from your nose into your stomach.

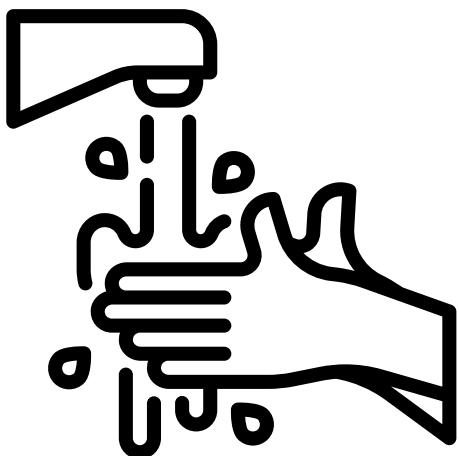


Your **total parenteral nutrition (TPN)** must go into your body through a special line in your chest, known as a central venous catheter.

It is very important to keep your special line very clean in order to avoid getting any infection that could make you very sick.

One of the most important ways to keep yourself healthy is to wash your hands.

## **Color the steps to good hand washing.**



1. Wet your hands before applying soap



2. Rub soap all over your palms, the backs of your hands, and in between your fingers. Sing your ABCs.



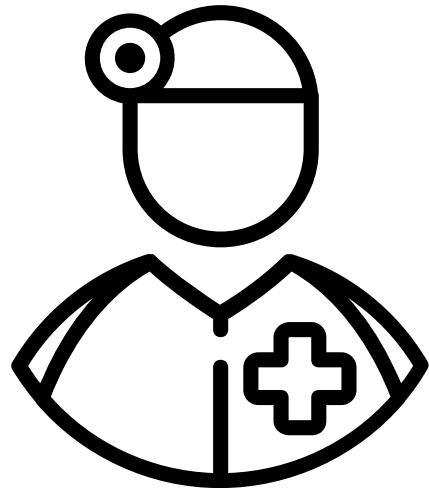
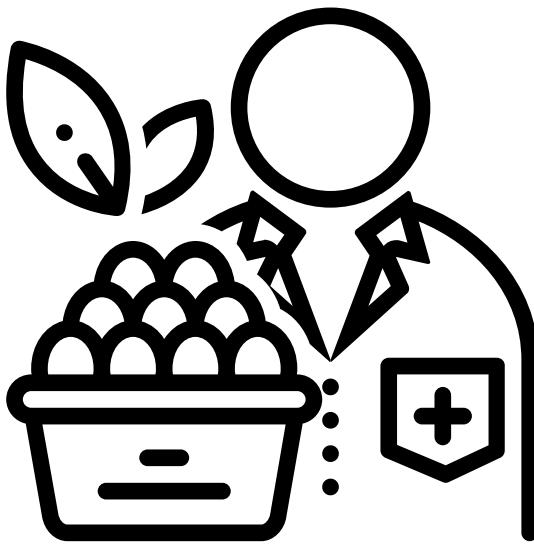
3. Wipe your hands with a clean towel or paper towel.

Your doctors want to try and help you get off of TPN or tube feeds and be able to eat and drink enough on your own to be able to grow like other kids.

A normal length small intestine helps to break down the food you eat so your body can absorb it and use it for fuel. Since your intestine is too short, it is not able to do this like normal.

Because of this, your doctor and other team members may tell you and your parents different options, **known as intestinal rehabilitation**, to help you get off of TPN or tube feeds and begin to eat on your own.

## Some Members of My Intestinal Rehab Team



Gastroenterologist

Dietician

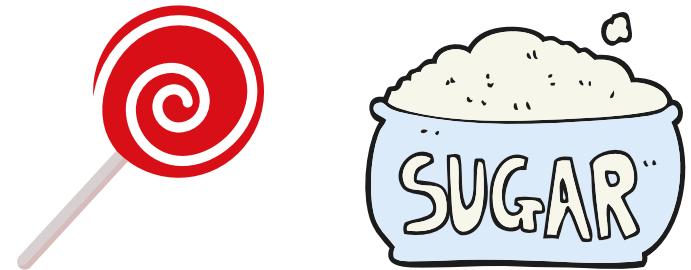
Surgeon

The first step is finding foods that you can eat that are best for kids like you, with short bowel syndrome.

The first food group you need energy from is known as carbohydrates. **Carbohydrates** are found in nearly every food you eat. There are two types of carbohydrates:

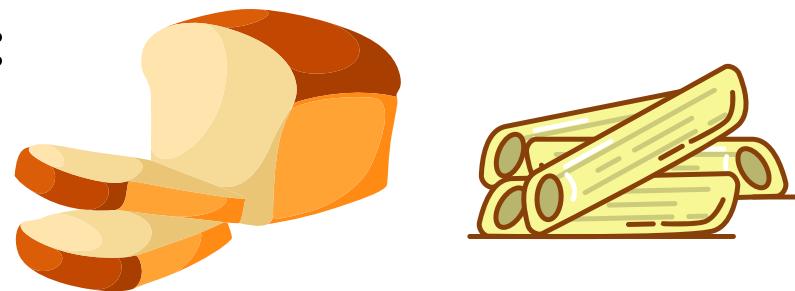
### 1. Simple carbohydrates:

This is what you know as sugar, like what you see in your sugar bowl or the sweetness when you lick a lollipop.



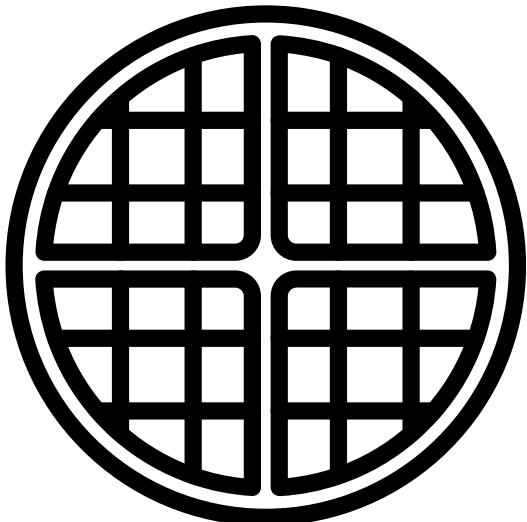
### 2. Complex carbohydrates:

These are known as starches and include things like bread and pasta.

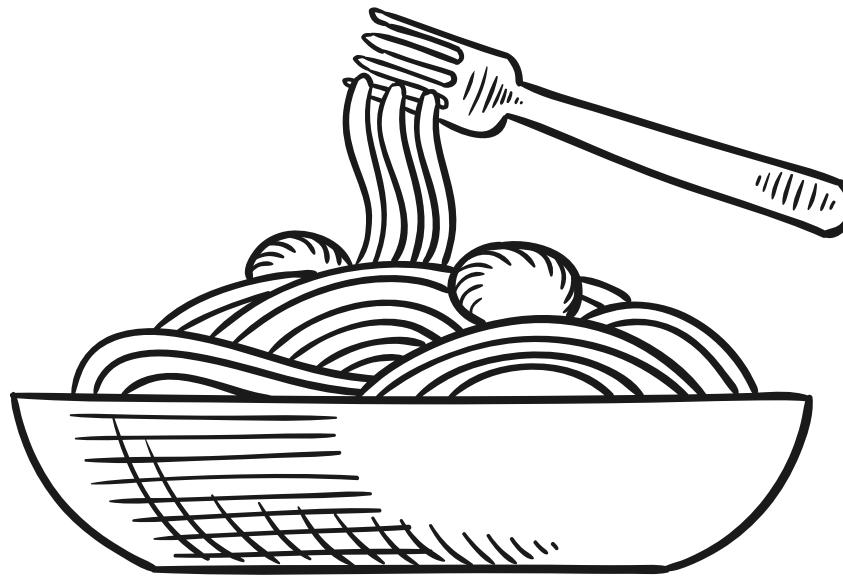


When you have a short bowel you need to **avoid** simple carbohydrates (sugars) because this can make your diarrhea worse. The more diarrhea you have, the more likely you might become dehydrated or sick.

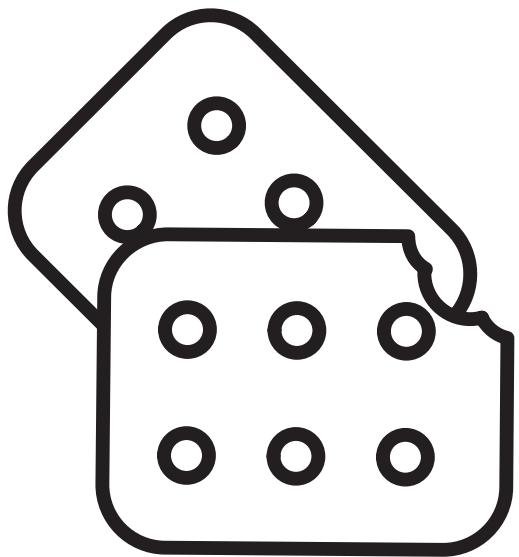
Color these ideas of complex carbohydrates you can **include in your diet**. Add any other foods your dietician suggests that may fall into this category.



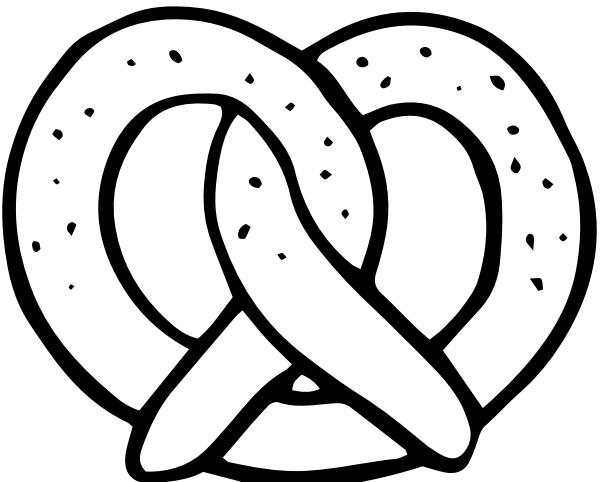
Plain waffle



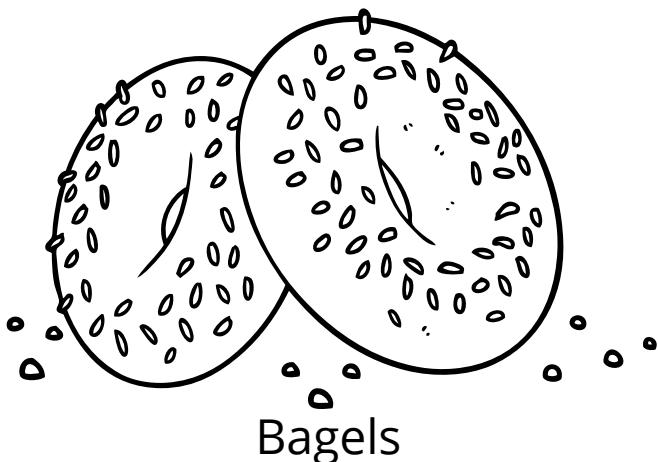
Pasta



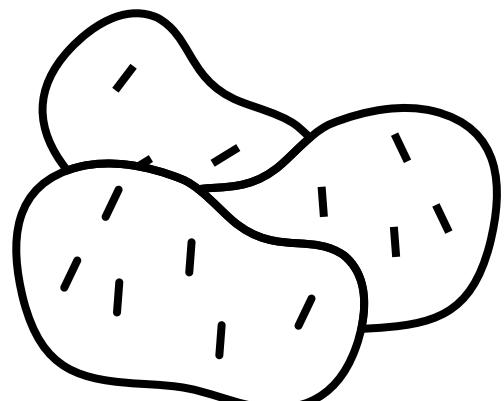
Crackers



Pretzels

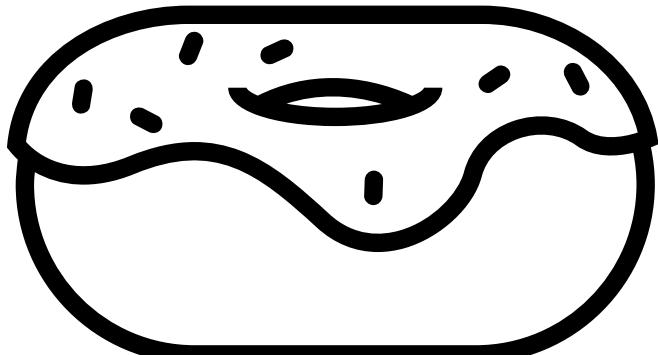


Bagels

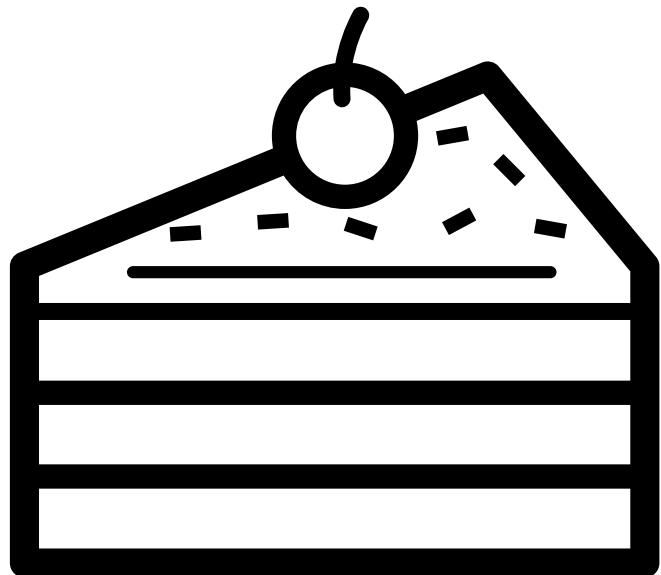


Potatos

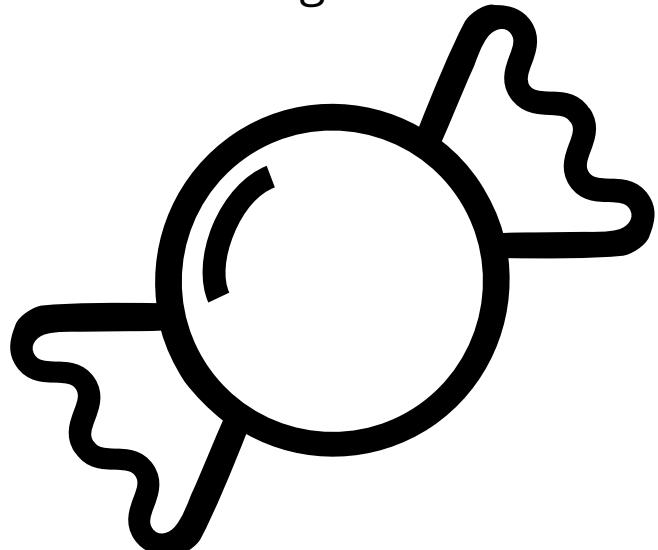
Color these ideas of simple carbohydrates **to avoid**. Add any other foods your dietitian suggests that may fall into this category.



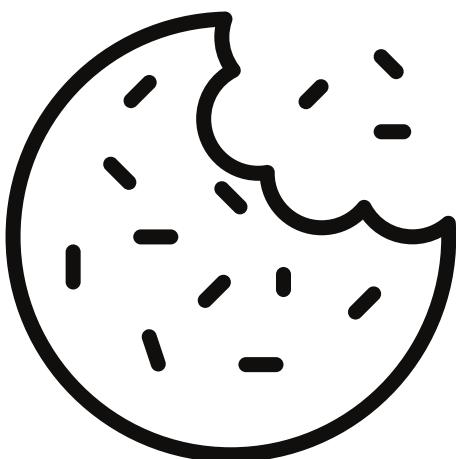
Doughnut



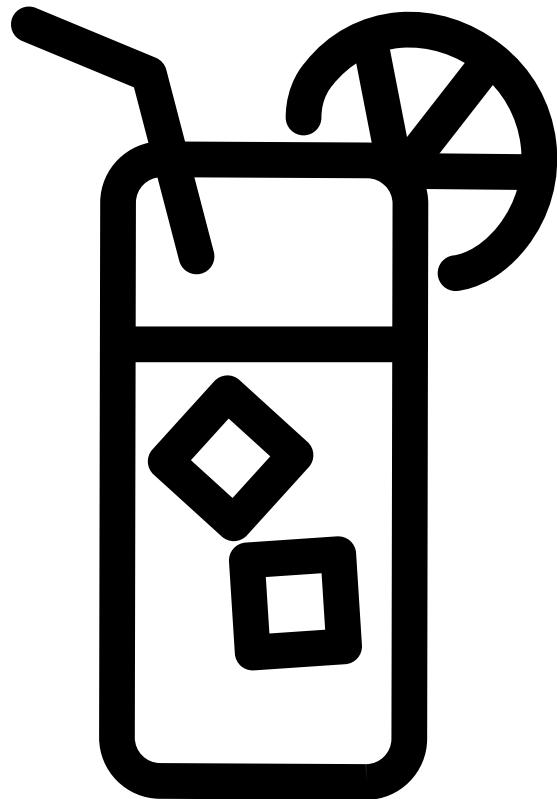
Cake



Candy



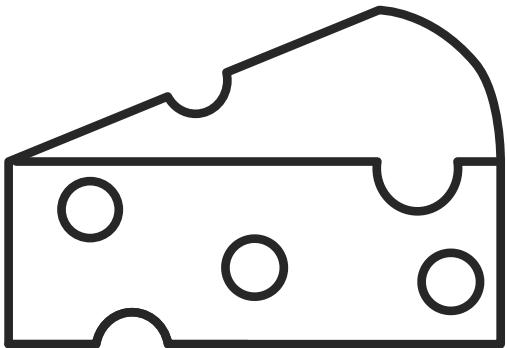
Cookies



Sugary drinks and juices

The next important food group is known as **protein**. Protein is very important in building, repairing, and maintaining all the tissues in your body.

**Color these good sources of protein:**



Cheese



Unsweetened Yogurt

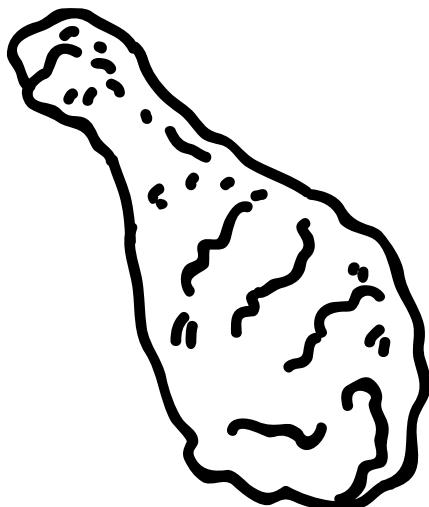


Chicken Breast

**Avoid these sources of protein:**



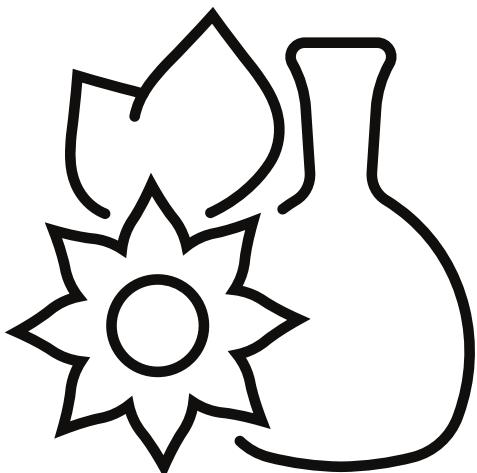
Raw Fish



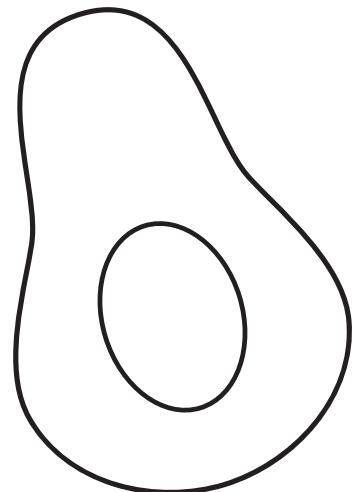
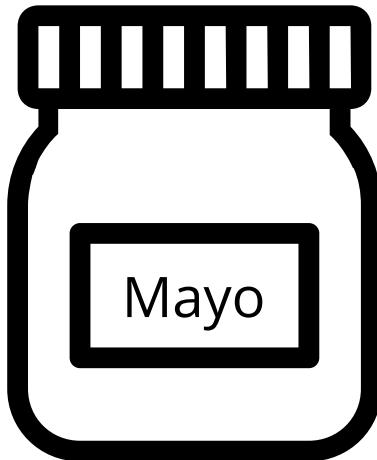
Fried Chicken

The last important food group is known as **fat**. Fat is a great source of energy and gives us essential fatty acids that our body cannot make on its own.

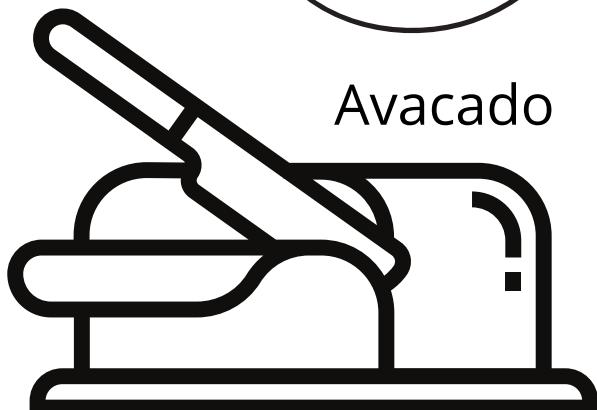
**Color these good sources of fat:**



Sunflower Oil

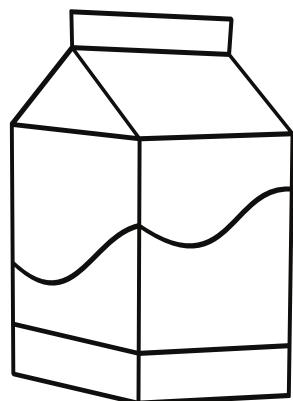


Bacon



Margarine

**Avoid these sources of fat:**



Cream, half  
and half



Sweetened  
Cream  
cheese

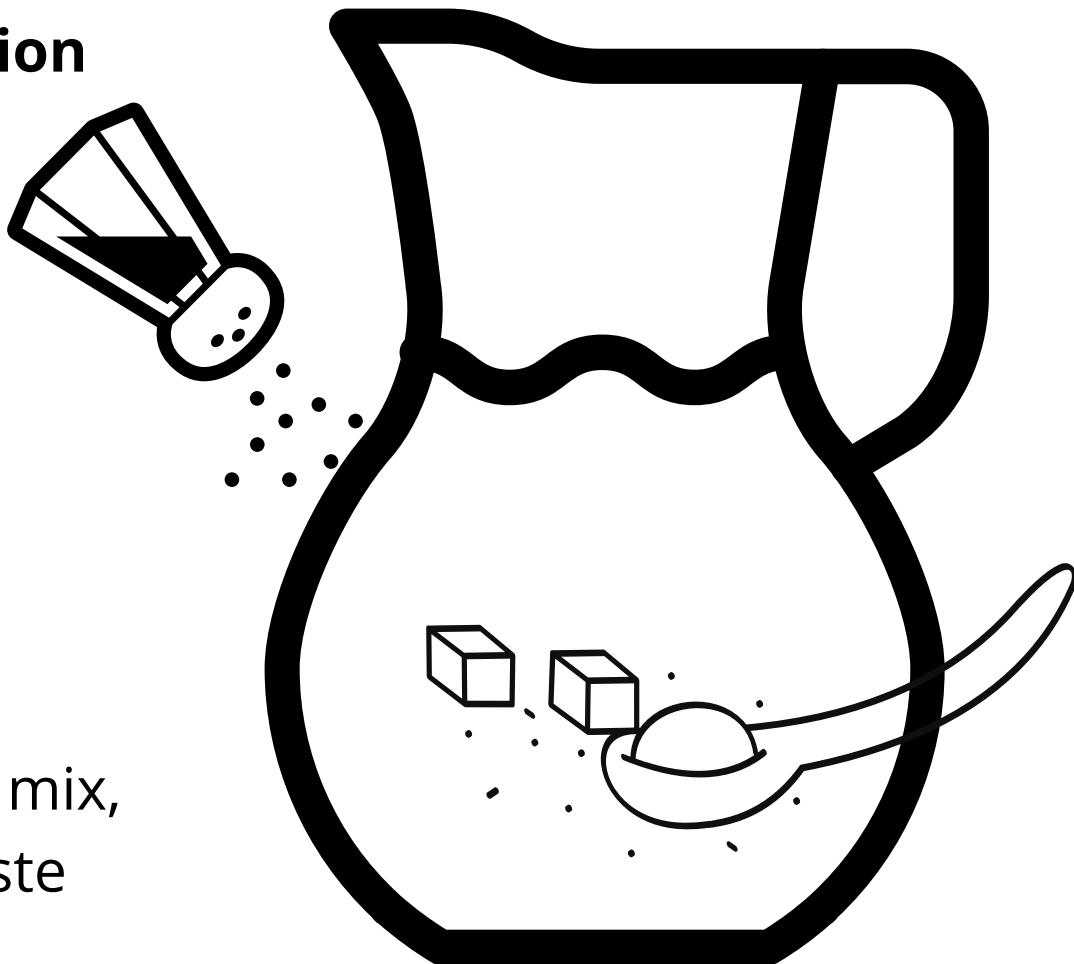
The next important step of intestinal rehab is making sure you get enough fluid to keep your body hydrated. Your doctor or nutritionist will help you find drinks to keep you hydrated.

Remember, drinks **high in sugar** will cause your **diarrhea to get worse** because more water gets pulled into your intestine.

To stop this from happening there are special drinks known as **oral rehydration solutions**. Your parents can buy these for you at the store, such as Pedialyte ®, or you can make your own at home. **Color your homemade oral rehydration solution (ORS).**

### **Oral Rehydration Recipe**

1. Quart of Water
2. 3/4 tsp. salt
3. 2 tbsp. sugar
4. Sugar-free drink mix, like Kool-Aid for taste



**Complete this fun word search with important intestinal rehab terms.**



### Word List

Carbohydrate	Intestine	Hydration	Enteral
Vitamin	Gattex®	Protein	Fiber
Sugar	Fat	Diarrhea	Salt

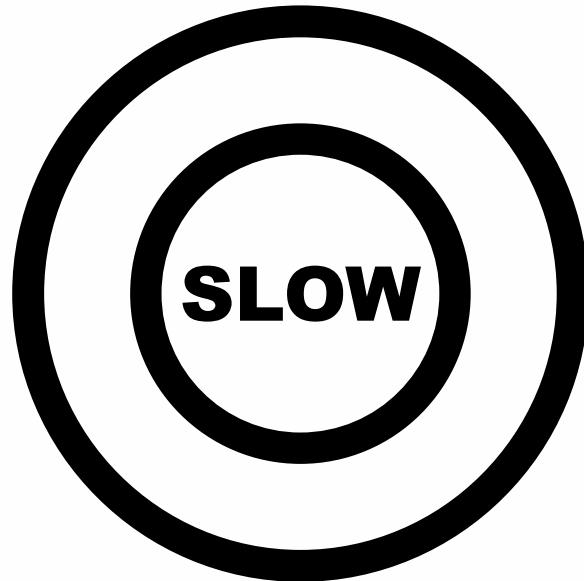
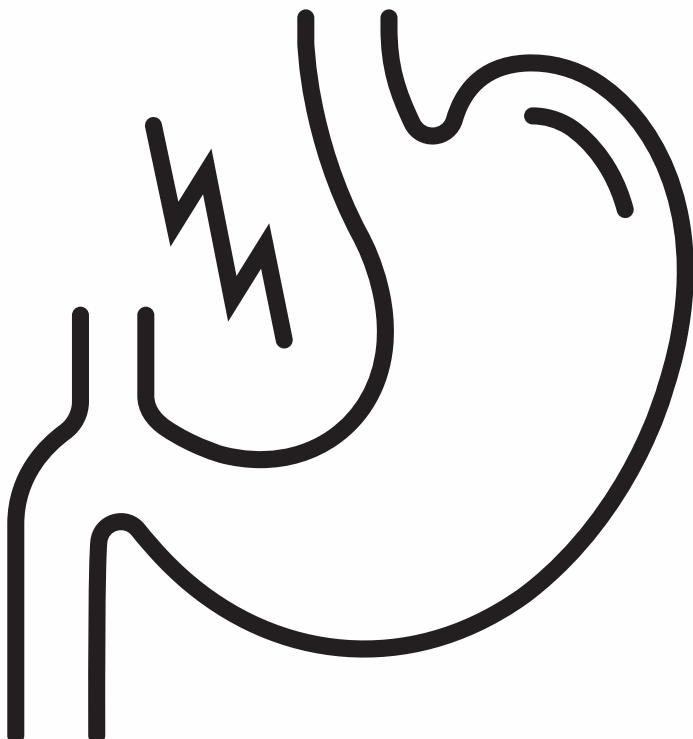
# Answer Key



Your doctor may recommend you take some medicines that will help you absorb your food and fluids better.

There are many types of medicines that your doctor may use. **Color the corresponding pictures.**

One type is **known as an anti-diarrheal**. These medicines slow down the food moving through your intestine so there is more time for your intestine to absorb the nutrients you need.



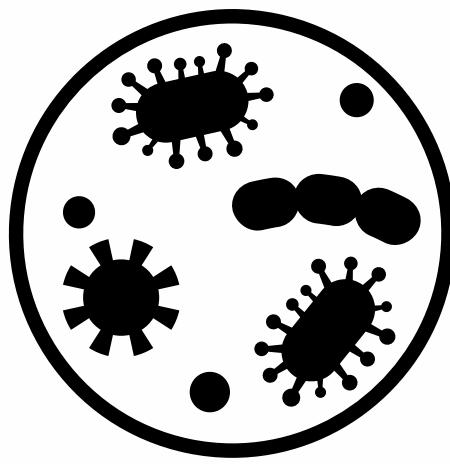
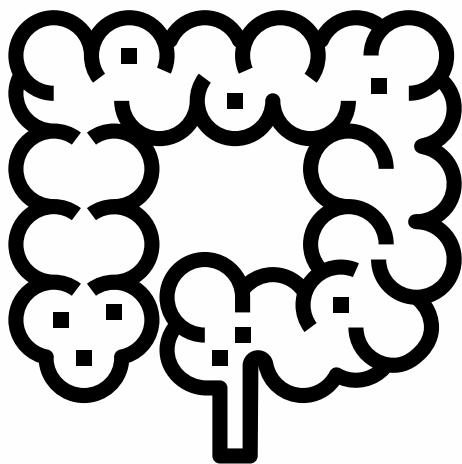
Your doctor may prescribe medications that help to **decrease the acid in your stomach**. These might help you feel better, especially if you ever feel burning in your chest (known as heartburn).



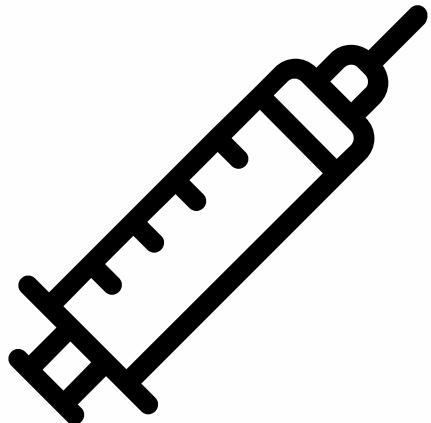
Your doctor may recommend you take some medicines that will help you absorb your food and fluids better.

There are many types of medicines that your doctor may use. **Color the corresponding pictures.**

Sometimes when you have a short bowel, the bacteria in your intestine will grow too much. This is called **bacterial overgrowth**. Your doctor may give you an **antibiotic** to help get your bacteria back in balance.

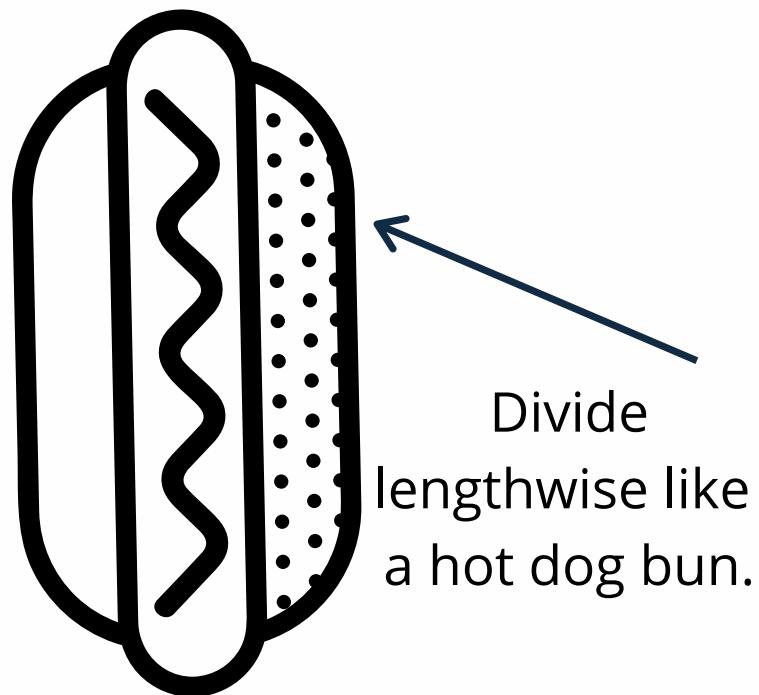


To help your intestine adapt and absorb more nutrients, your doctors may suggest a special medication known as **Glucagon-Like Peptide-2 (GLP-2) (Teduglutide, Gattex®)**. This comes as an injection, but don't worry, it will only sting for a second!



The last option for **intestinal rehab is surgery**. Your doctor may suggest an operation that uses your own intestine to help it become longer and be able to absorb more nutrients.

**Bianchi Procedure:** You may hear your doctor use this term. This is a procedure where your doctor goes into your belly and divides your intestine lengthwise (i.e. hot dog bun style). It is then sewed back together, essentially doubling the length of your bowel. This helps you absorb more nutrients.



### **Serial Transverse**

**Enteroplasty (STEP):** This is another term your doctor may use. During this procedure your doctor will go into your belly and make tiny cuts in your intestine in a zig-zag pattern. This makes your intestine longer and helps you absorb more nutrients.

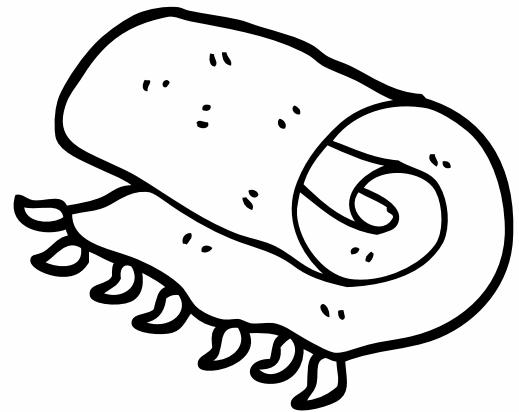
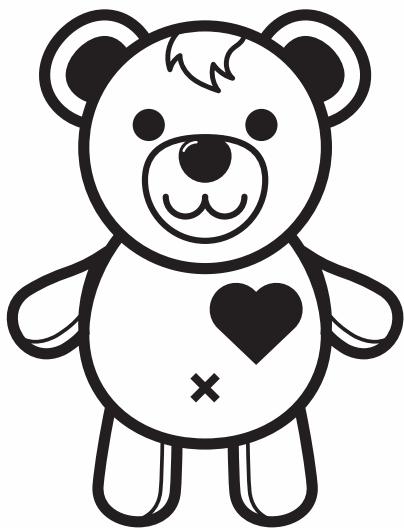


## Preparing for Surgery

You may be nervous to go into surgery, but remember your whole team is there to make sure everything goes smoothly and makes sure you are comfortable.

Before going to the hospital for surgery, be sure to pack some of your favorite things, such as stuffed animal or special blanket.

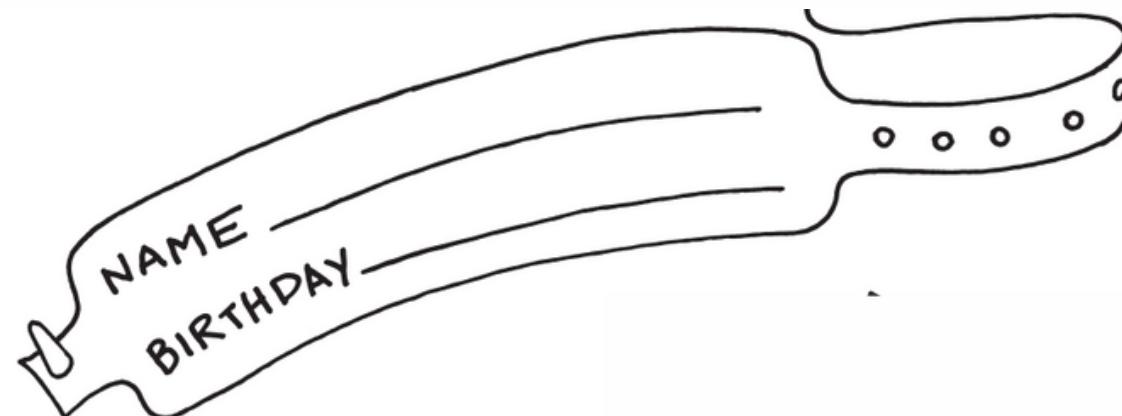
**Draw what will you bring with you to the hospital.**



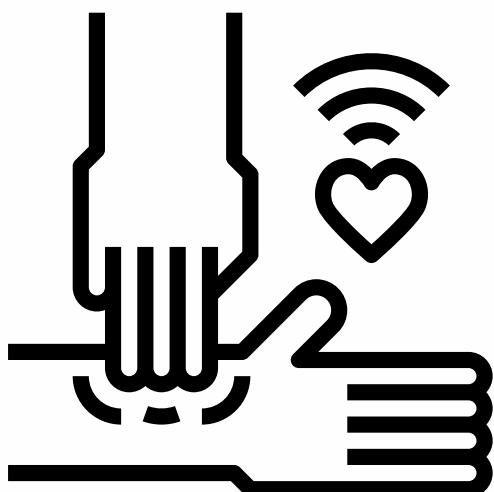
# Preparing for Surgery

When you get to the hospital, the nurses will prepare you for surgery. There are many things you should expect.

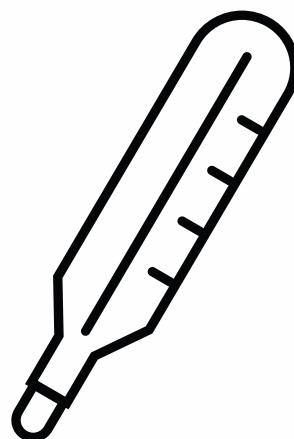
Color them in:



Fill out your wristband like the one you are going to get.



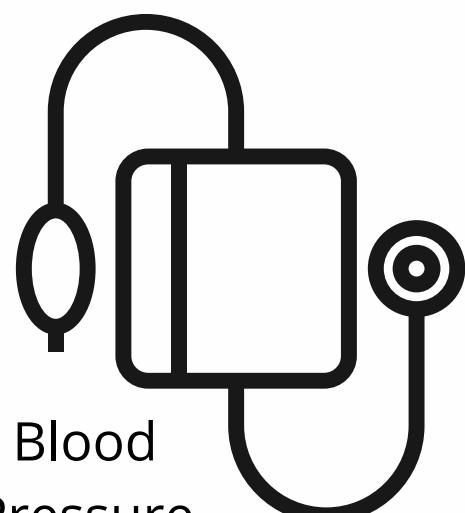
Pulse or Heart Rate



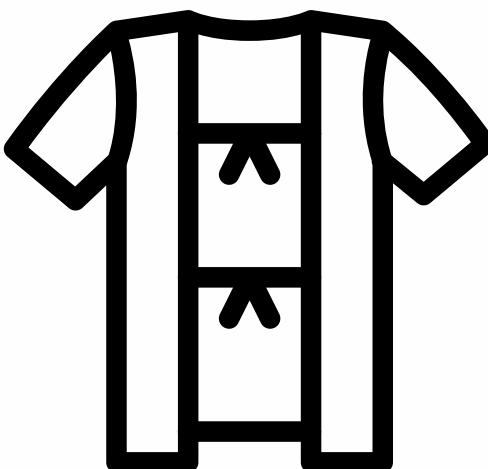
Temperature



Weight



Blood Pressure



You will change into a hospital gown.

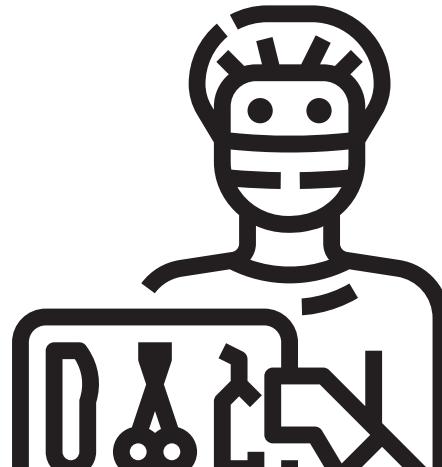


Your heart and lungs will be checked.

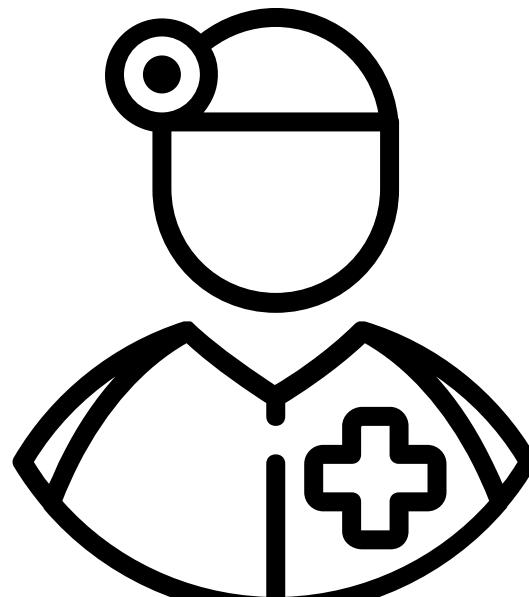
## Some Team Members in the Operating Room

### What happens when I am prepped and ready to go?

- When it is time to go have your procedure, you will be able to say "see you soon" to your family and then the team will wheel you into the operating room.
- The special doctor will give you a medicine called anesthesia that will make you sleepy and you will peacefully fall asleep.
- You will stay asleep the whole operation and you will not feel, hear, or see anything.



Surgeon



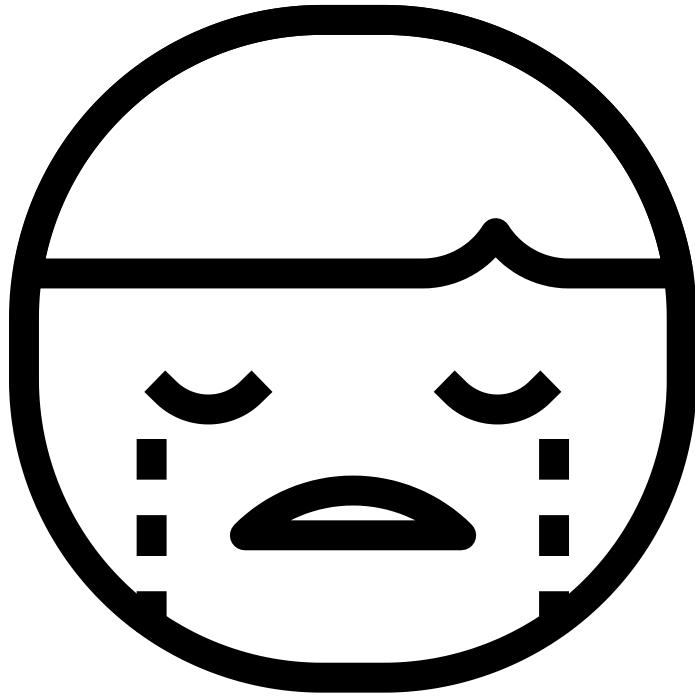
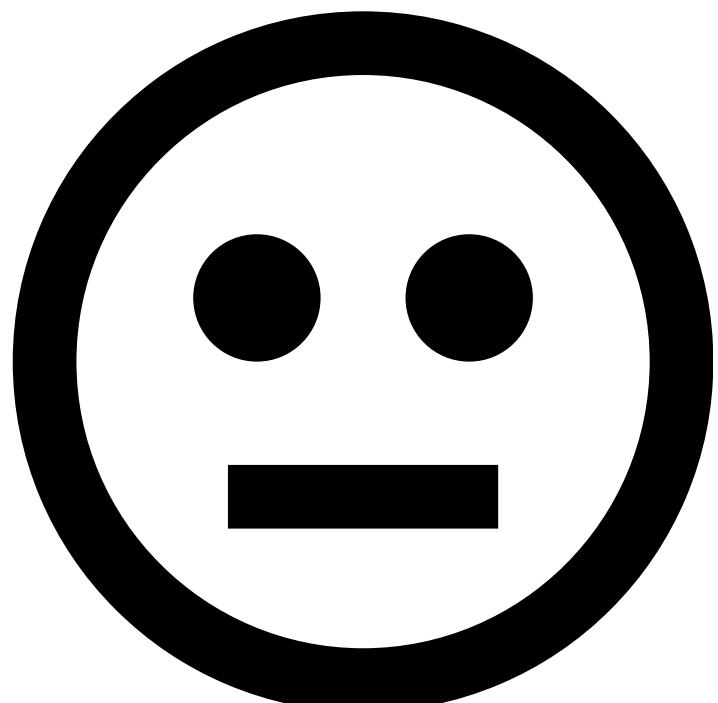
Anesthesiologist



Nurse

When you wake up you may also have some pain. If you do, tell the nurse and they can give you some medicine to make you feel better.

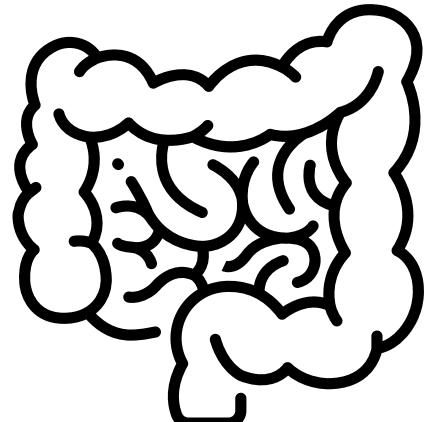
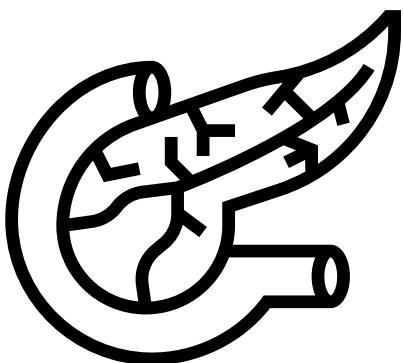
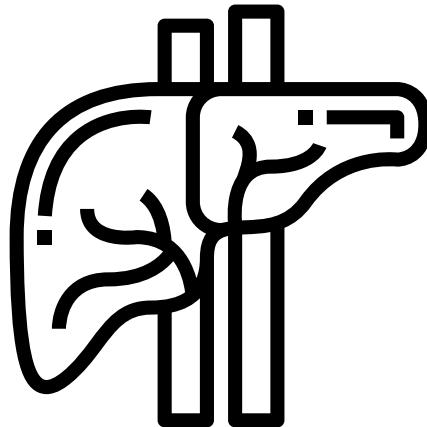
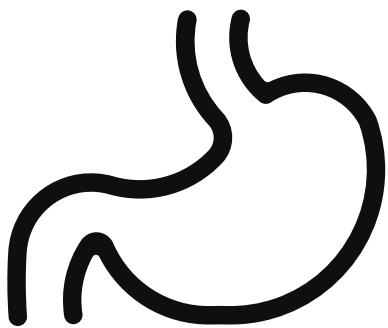
Color these faces. After surgery, you can point to the face to tell the nurse how you are feeling.



If TPN starts to cause you problems and the doctor decides they have tried to help you in all other ways, they may evaluate you for an intestinal transplant.

An intestinal transplant is when doctors replace an unhealthy old intestine with a healthy new intestine. Your doctor may decide to include other organs inside your belly too.

Circle and color the organs your doctor is going to replace.

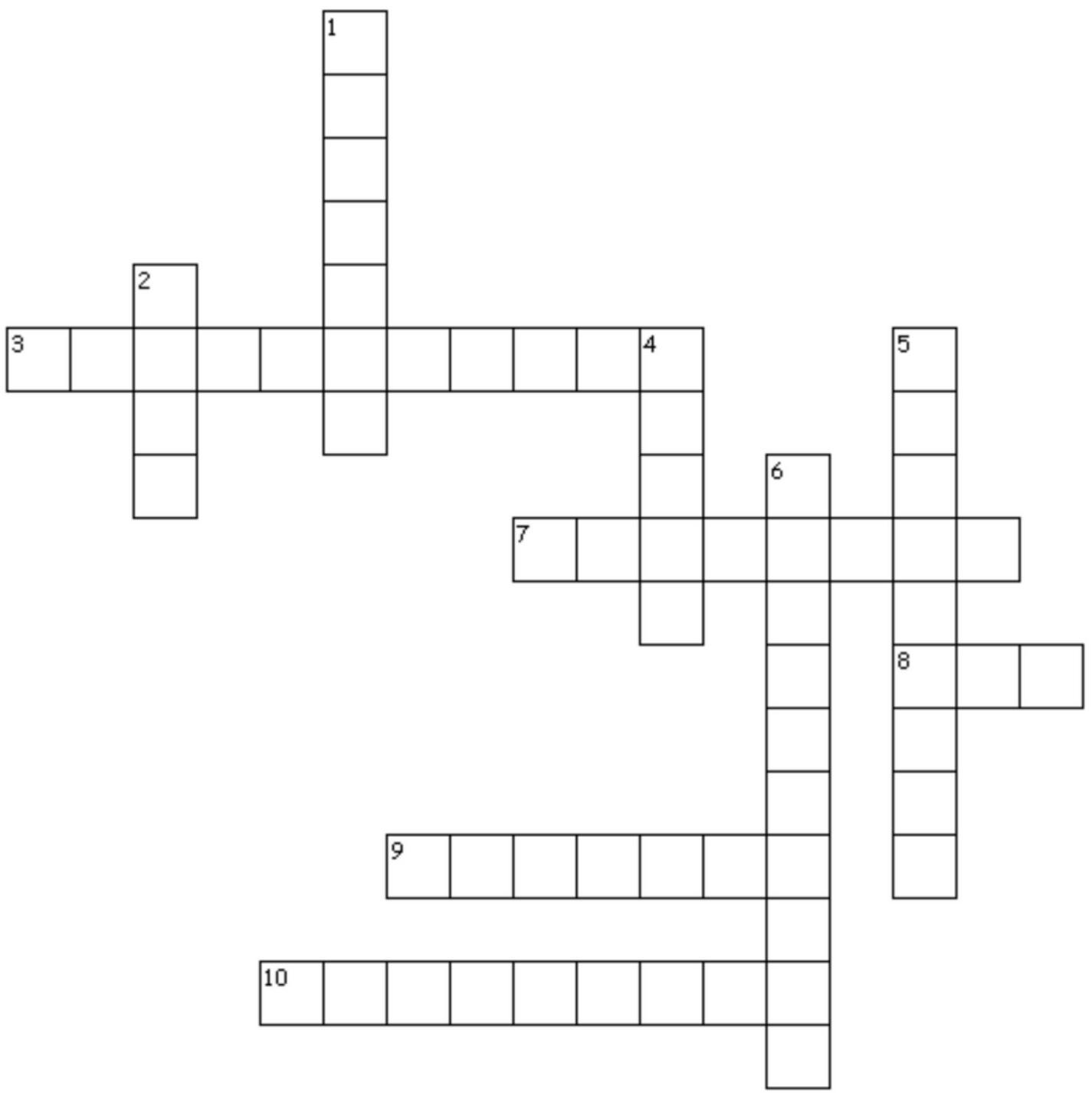


Once you are feeling better you will be able to start playing with your friends again and becoming more active.

Hooray! You have made it through the hardest part of the journey.

Draw your favorite activities with friends.





## Intestinal Rehabilitation Crossword

### Find the Clues on the Next Page

# **Intestinal Rehabilitation Crossword Clues**

## **Across**

3. These are given when you have too much bacteria in your intestine.
7. When your poop is really soft or watery.
8. This is nutrition that goes directly into your veins when you cannot absorb enough food by mouth.
9. This is when you receive your nutrition through a tube in your belly, known as a G-tube or J-tube.
10. This is a member of your team that helps you find the best food and drinks for you to help you grow strong.

## **Down**

1. This is an important nutrient that helps to build, repair, and maintain the tissues in your body.
2. This is a procedure that makes zig-zag cuts in your intestine to make it longer.
4. As a short bowel patient you should avoid this type of carbohydrate in your diet because it can increase diarrhea.
5. The organ in your body that is a long tube that breaks down the food you eat and turns it into energy for your body.
6. This is when your unhealthy organs are replaced by healthy organs.

## Intestinal Rehabilitation Crossword Answers

### Across

3. These are given when you have too much bacteria in your intestine.

### Antibiotics

7. When your poop is really soft or watery. **Diarrhea**

8. This is nutrition that goes directly into your veins when you cannot absorb enough food by mouth. **TPN**

9. This is when you receive your nutrition through a tube in your belly, known as a G-tube or J-tube. **Enteral**

10. This is a member of your team that helps you find the best food and drinks for you to help you grow strong. **Dietician**

### Down

1. This is an important nutrient that helps to build, repair, and maintain the tissues in your body. **Protein**

2. This is a procedure that makes zig-zag cuts in your intestine to make it longer. **STEP**

4. As a short bowel patient you should avoid this type of carbohydrate in your diet because it can increase diarrhea. **Sugar**

5. The organ in your body that is a long tube that breaks down the food you eat and turns it into energy for your body. **Intestine**

6. This is when your unhealthy organs are replaced by healthy organs.

### Transplant

**More Info?  
Contact or  
Visit us.**



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