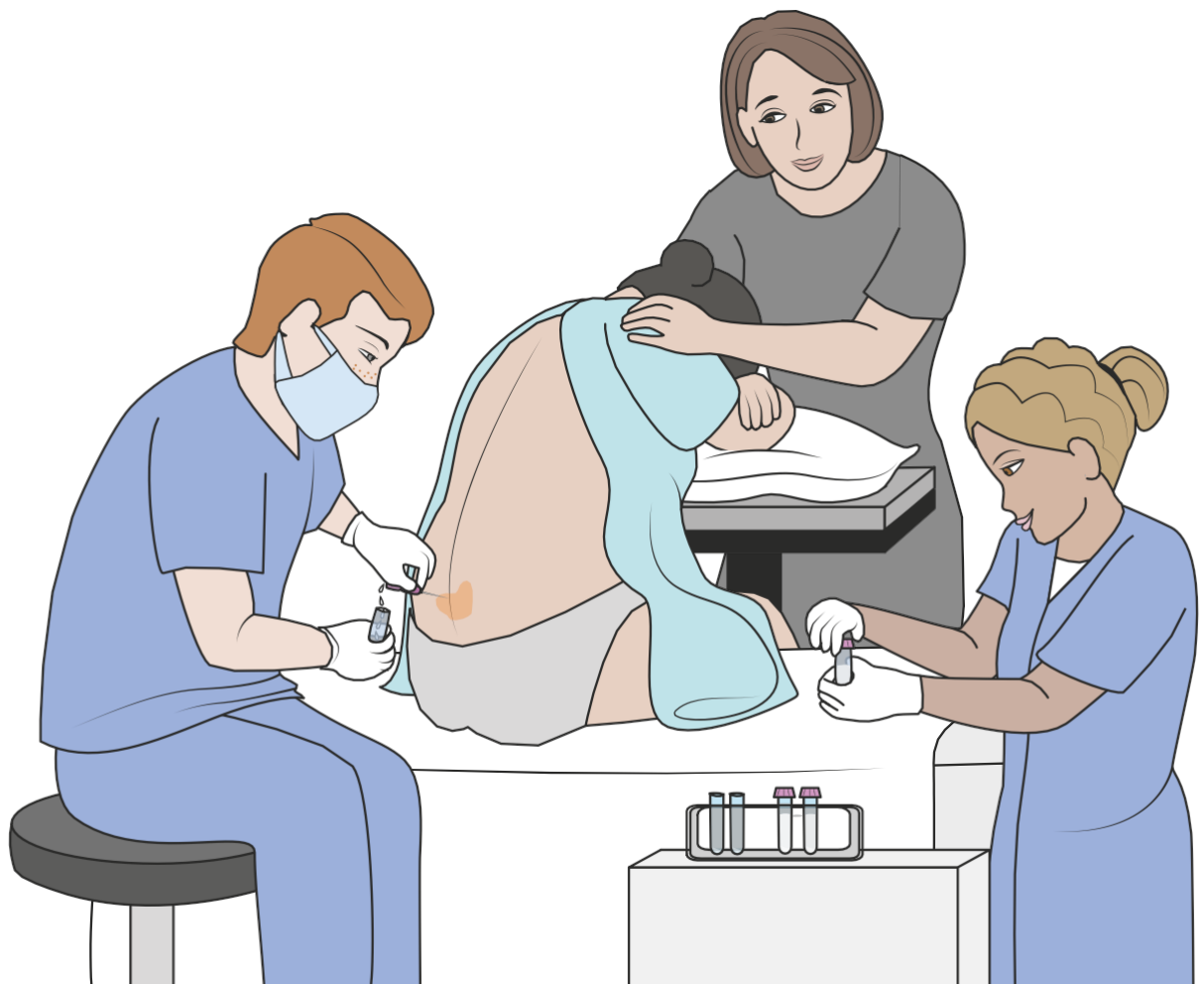


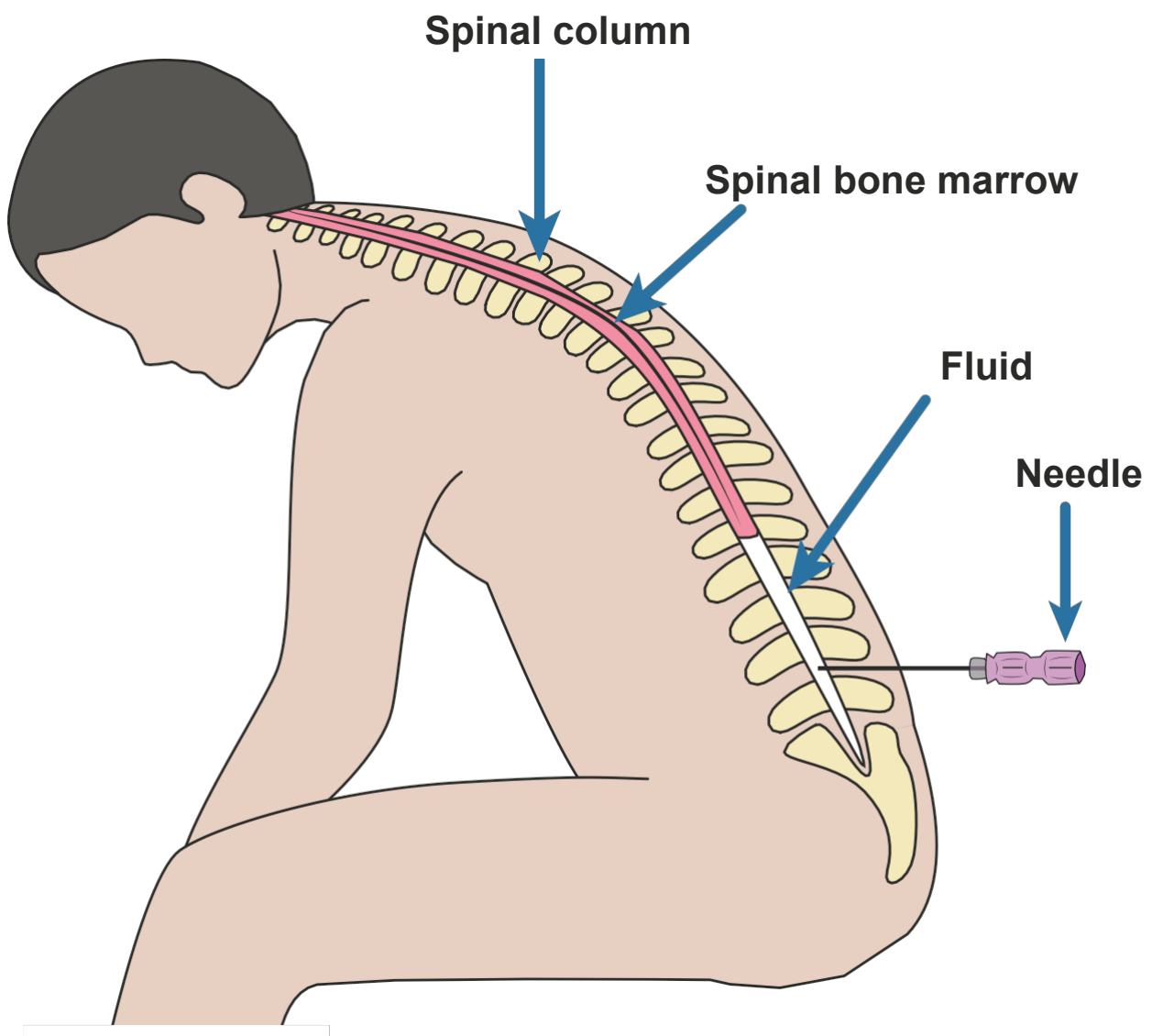
A lumbar puncture



What is it?

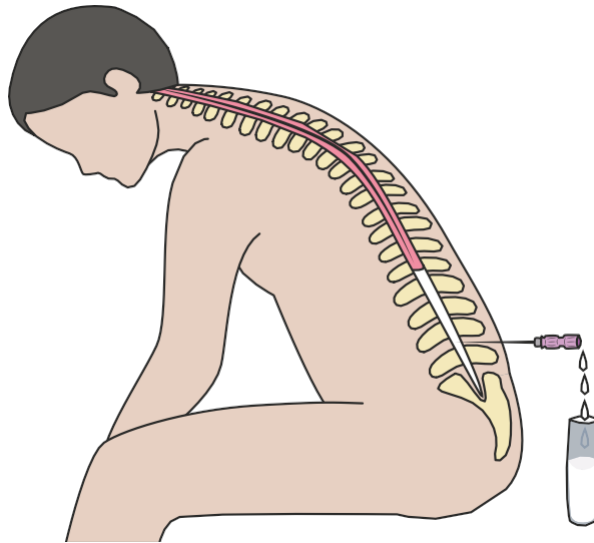
A lumbar puncture means putting a needle into my back.

- The needle goes into my spinal column where there is fluid.
Everybody has spinal fluid.

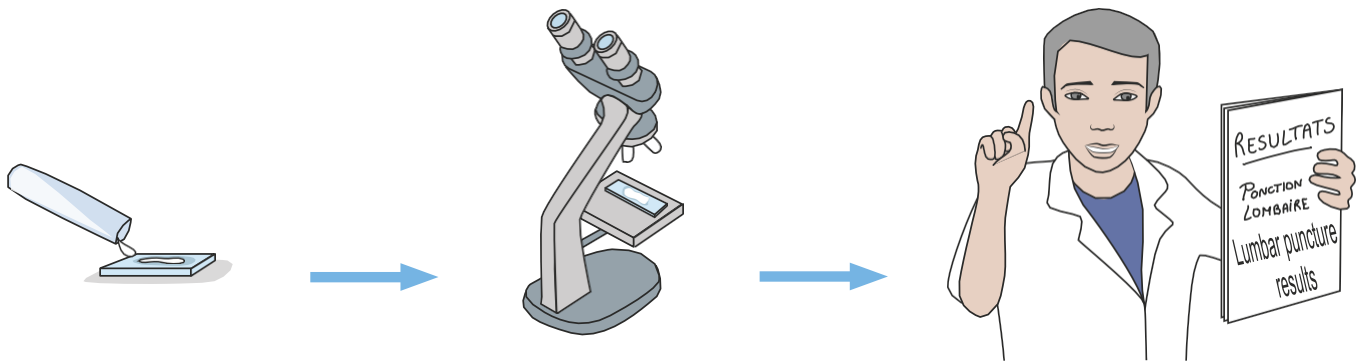


What is a lumbar puncture for?

A lumbar puncture lets the doctor take fluid from my spinal column.

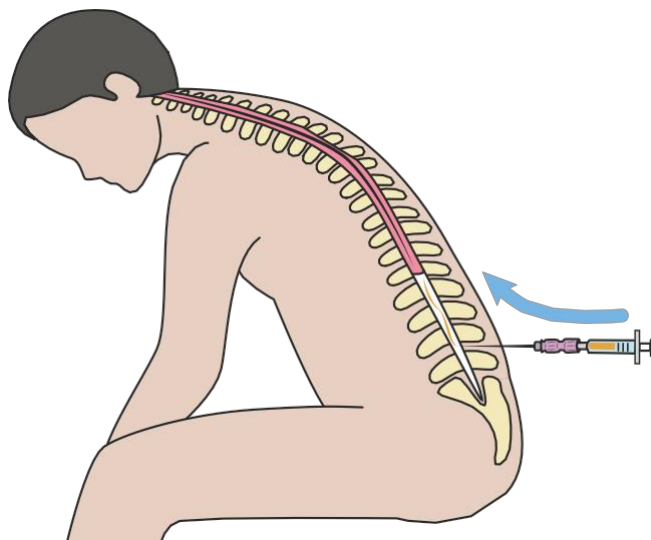


- The results help the doctor to understand my illness better.



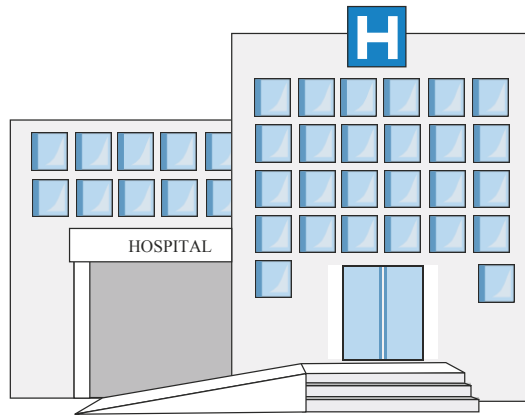
Sometimes a lumbar puncture is used to give me medicine.

- The medicine goes into the fluid in my spinal column.



What happens?

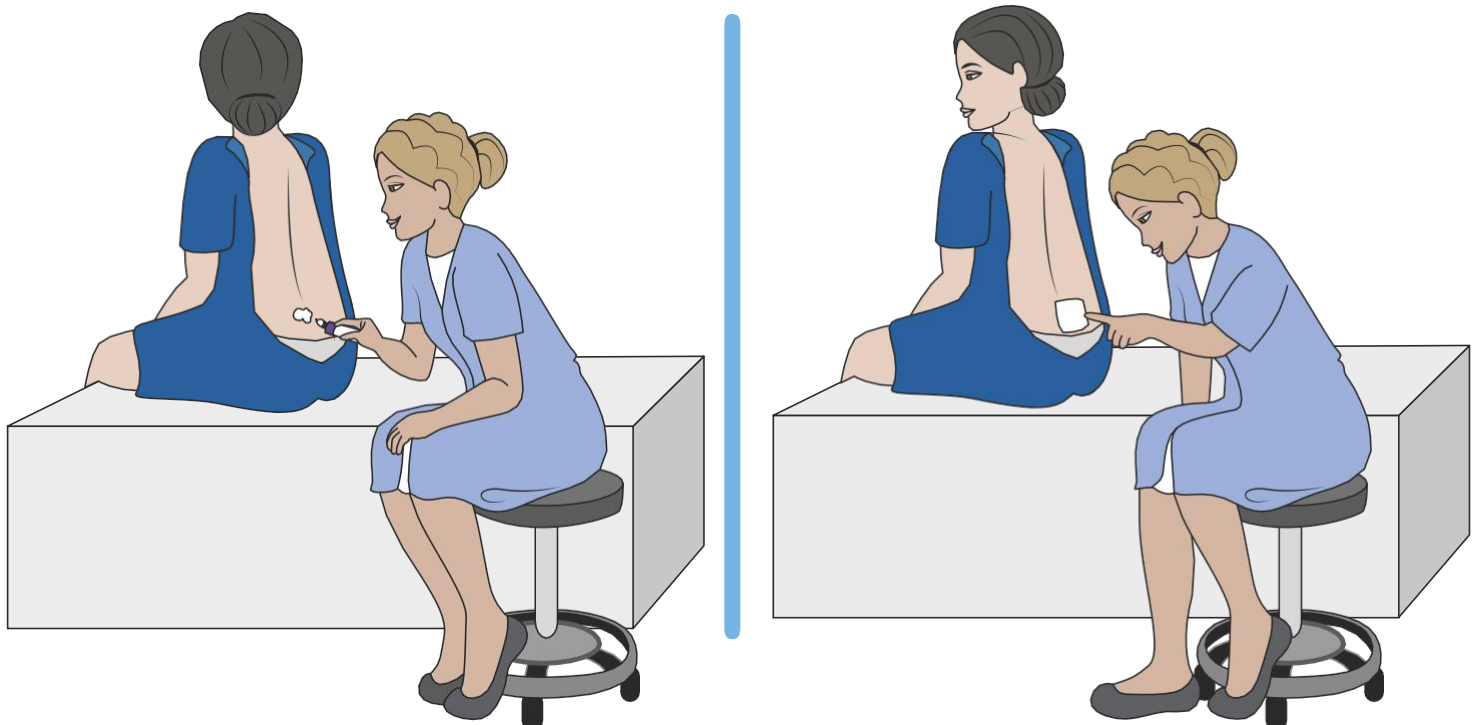
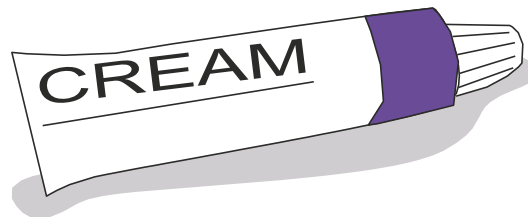
A lumbar puncture is done at the hospital or the clinic.



Before the lumbar puncture

A nurse puts an anaesthetic cream on my back.

- The cream makes my skin go to sleep.



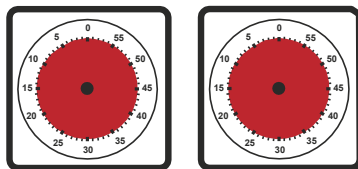
The doctor may give me medicine to help me relax.



The person accompanying me can stay with me.

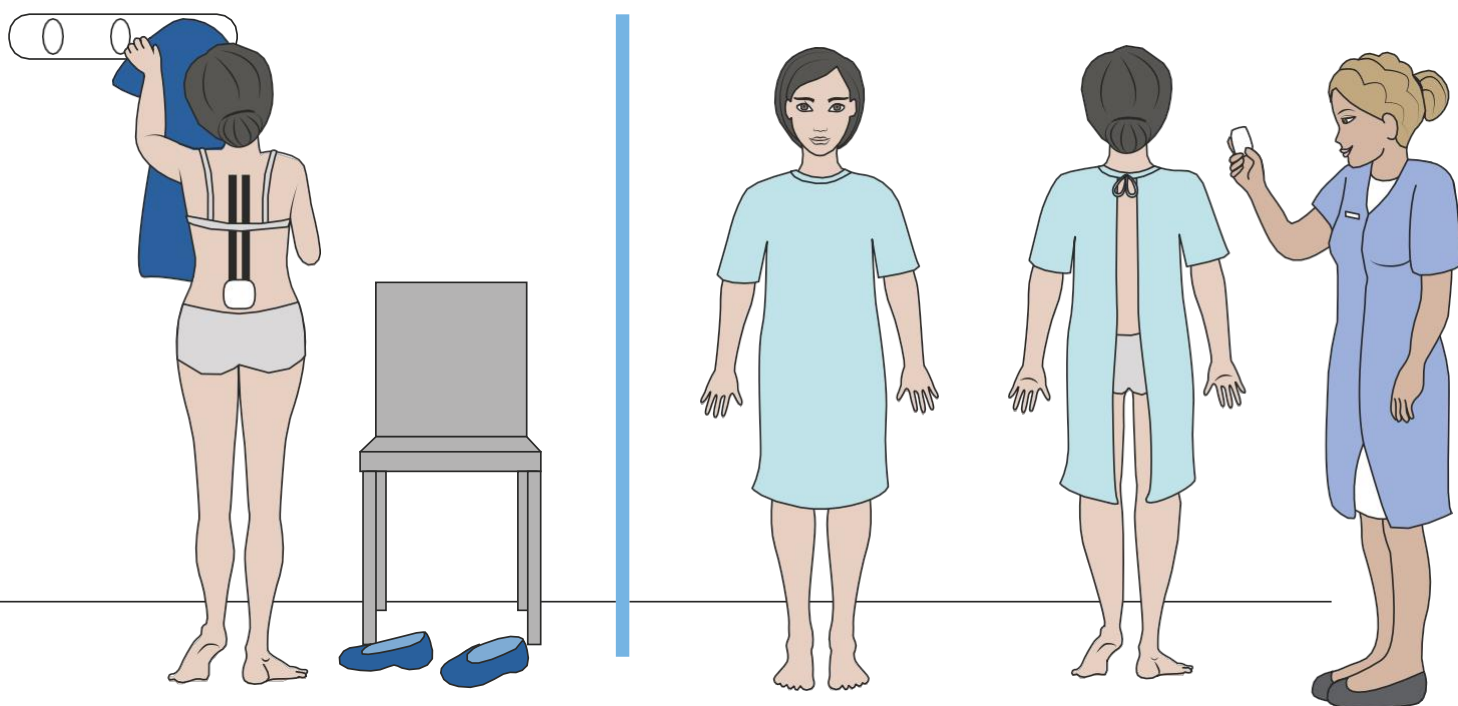


I wait two hours



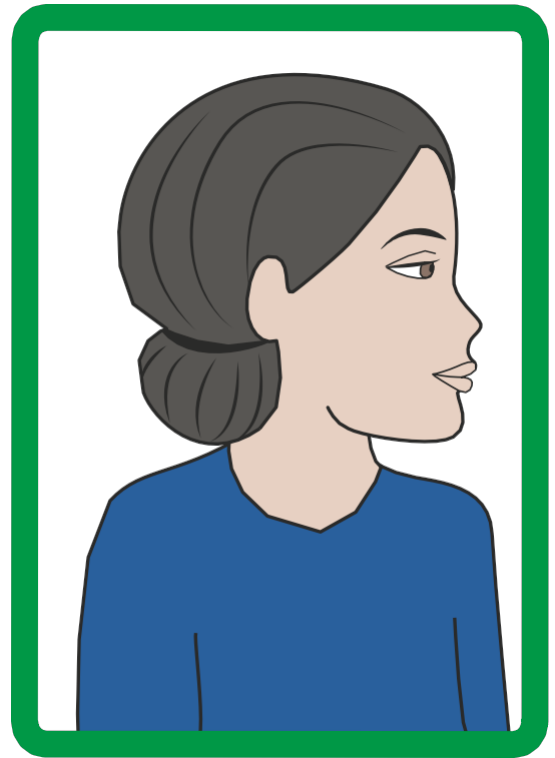
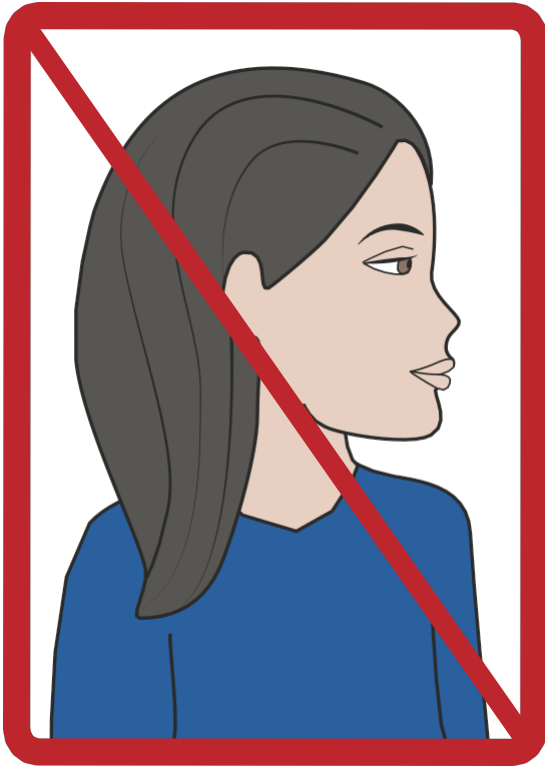
I take my clothes off

- The nurse gives me a white gown and takes off my plaster



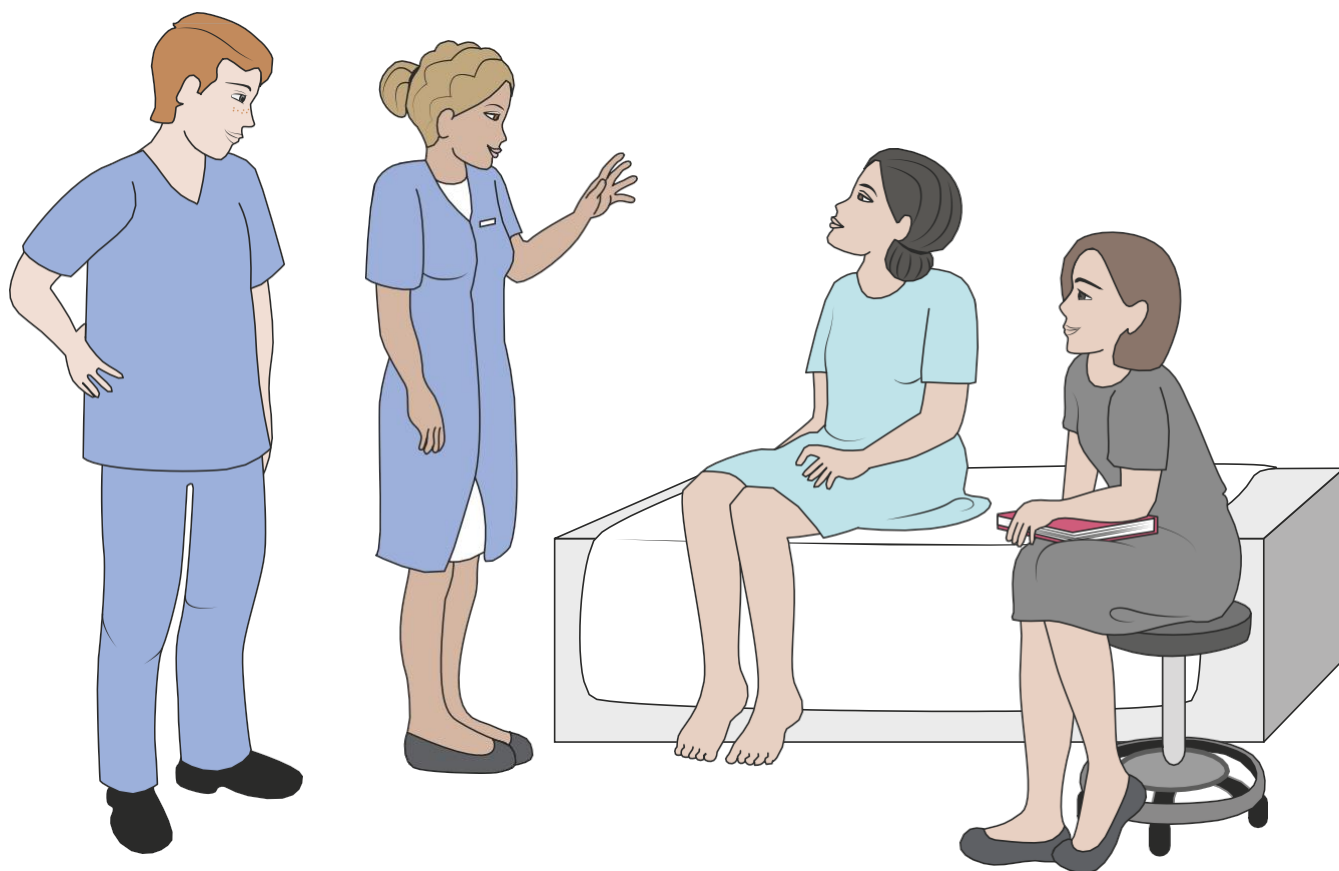
La blouse est ouverte derrière

- If I have long hair, I must tie it back.



The doctor gives me a lumbar puncture

A nurse helps the doctor during the lumbar puncture



The nurse helps me into the right position

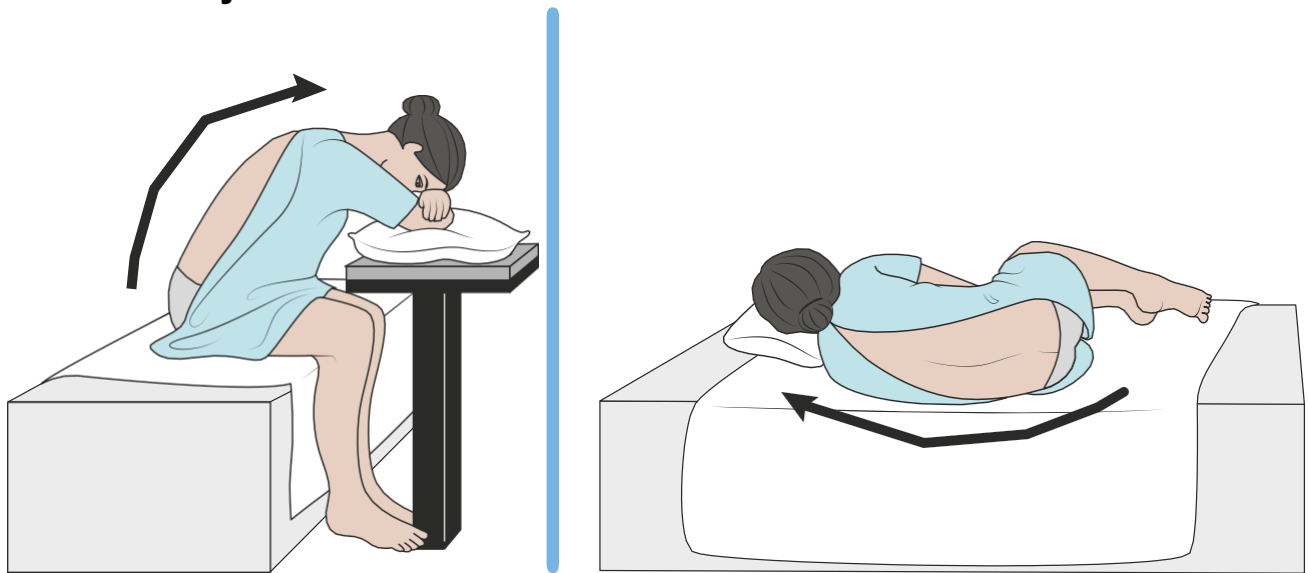
● On the side of the bed



● Or lying on my side



- I need to arch my back



- The person accompanying me helps me stay in that position



- This gas helps me stay calm and it hurts less.



- I breathe through a mask until the treatment is over.

- To find out more, read our MEOPA fact-sheet

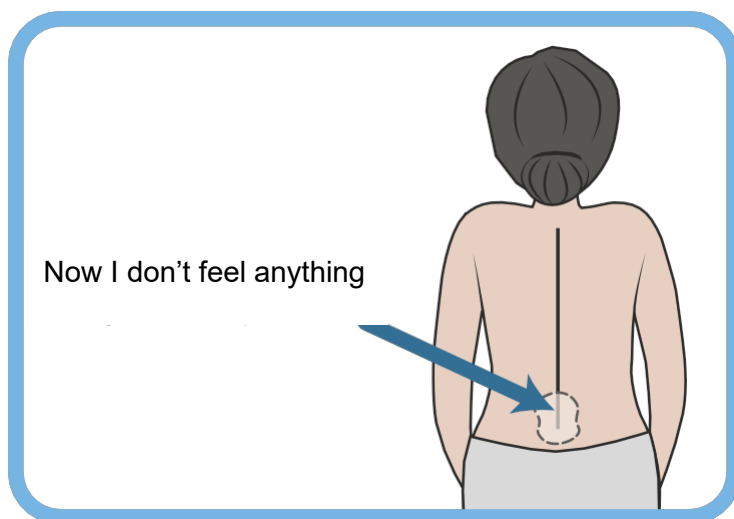




They give me an anaesthetic injection



- The injection makes my skin go to sleep



They give me an anaesthetic injection

- The injection makes my skin go to sleep



To make the puncture, the doctor puts a needle into my back

- The needle is very thin



- It's not nice

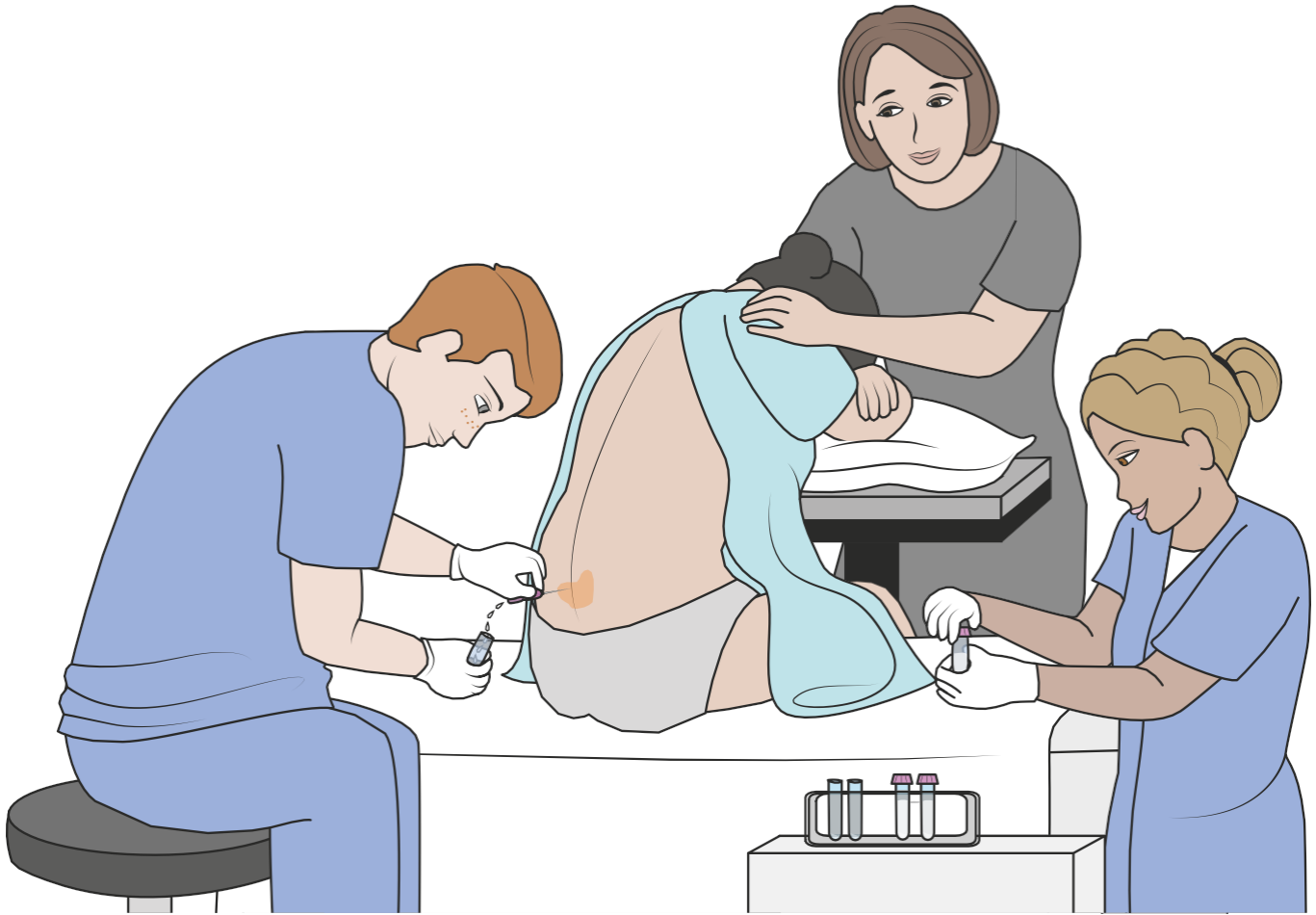


- It is quick

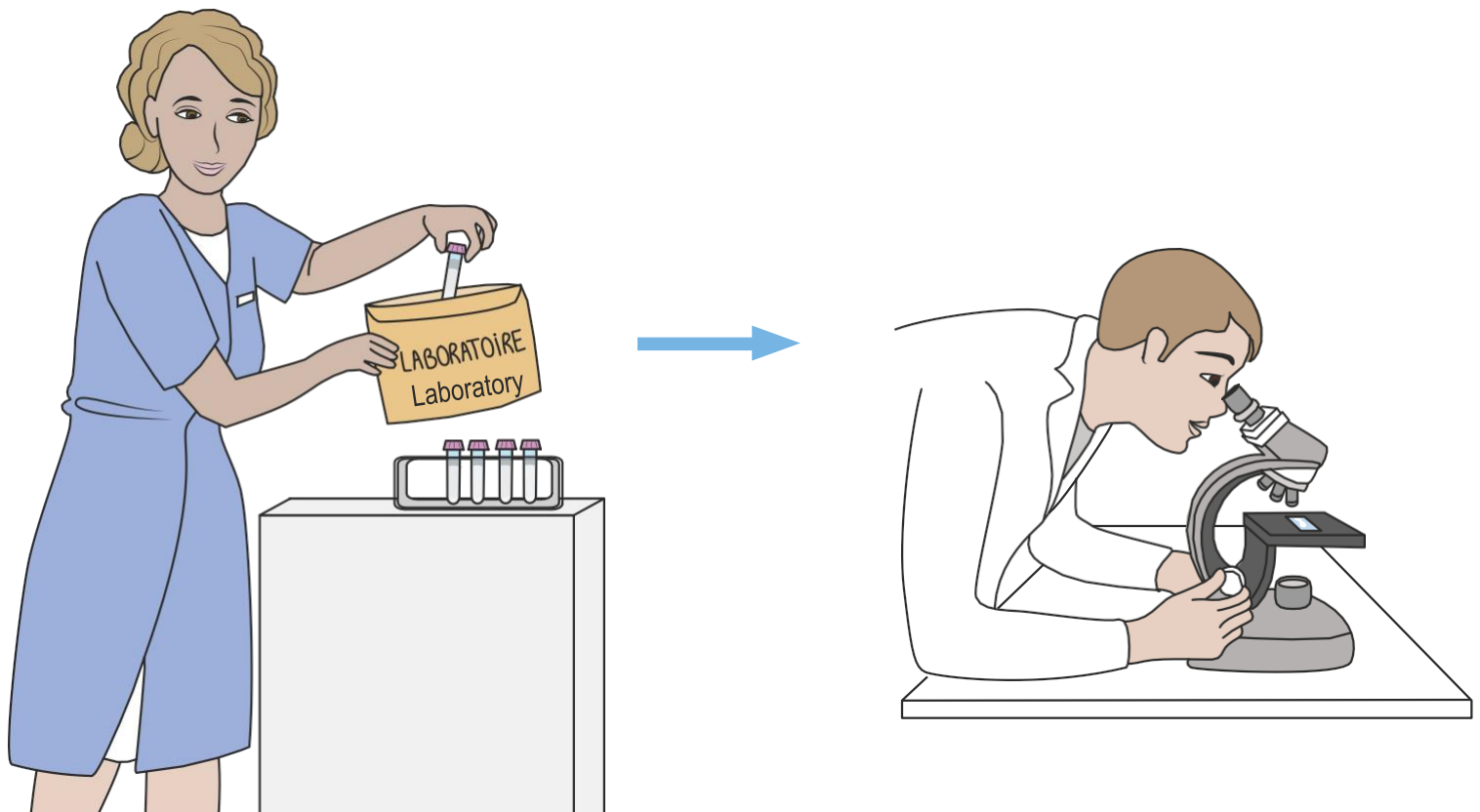


- I must stay still





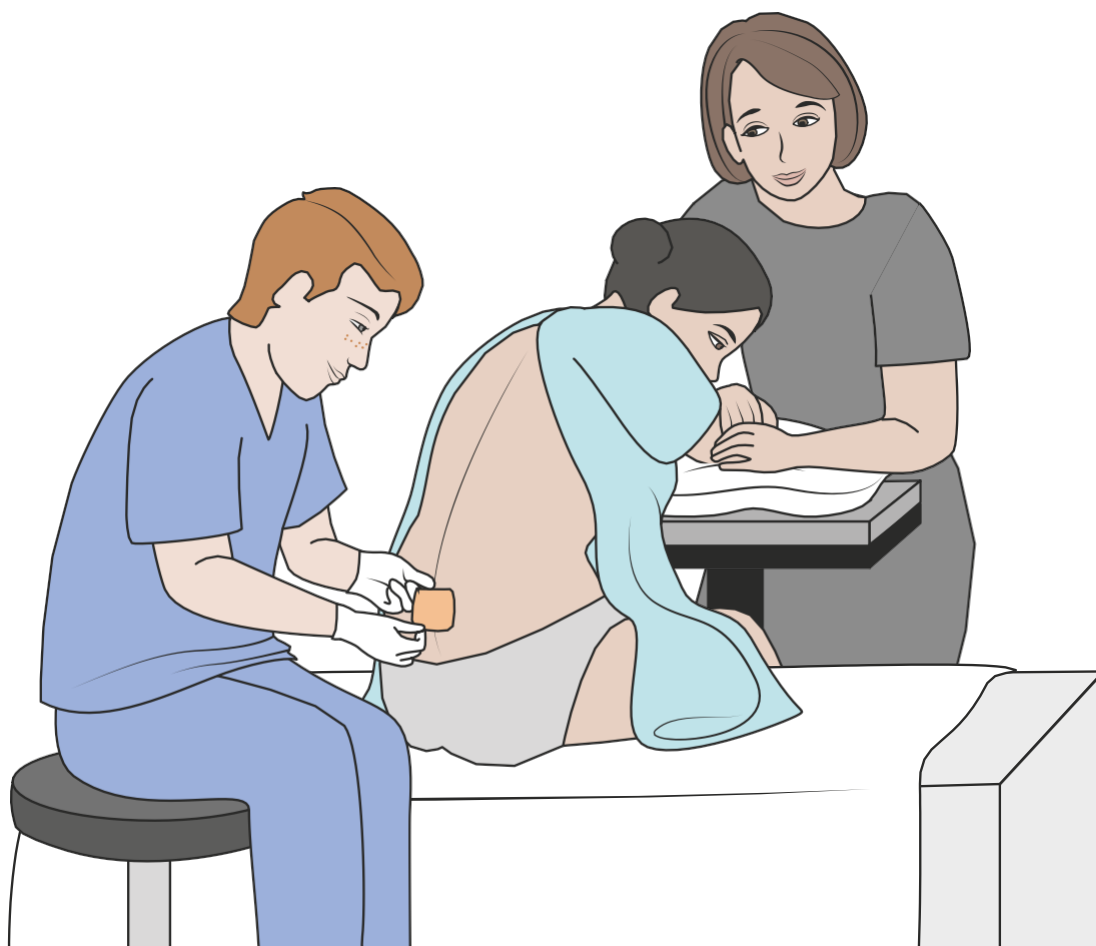
After, the nurse sends the tubes to the laboratory



- Sometimes, the doctor puts medicine into my spinal column



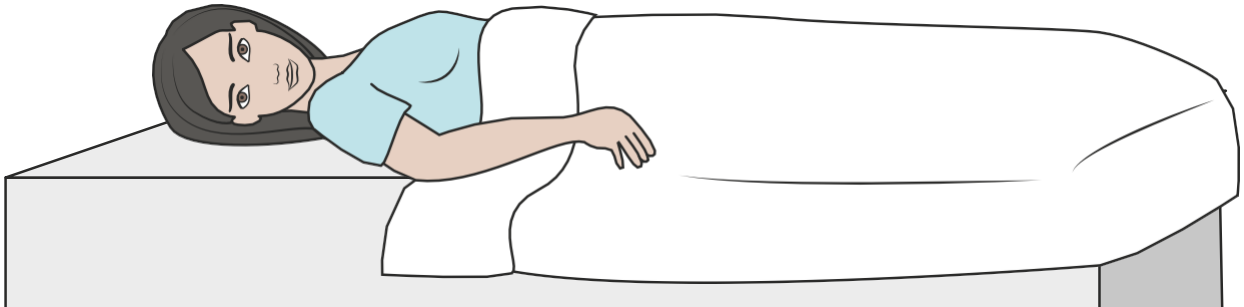
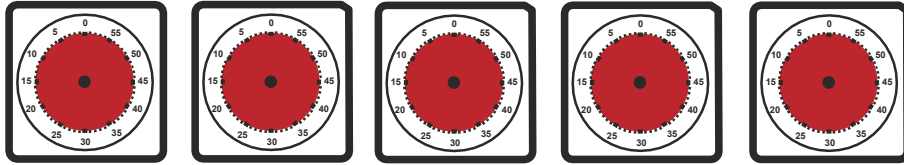
The doctor takes the needle out and puts a plaster on my back



After the lumbar puncture

I stay lying on my back for a few hours

So I don't get a headache



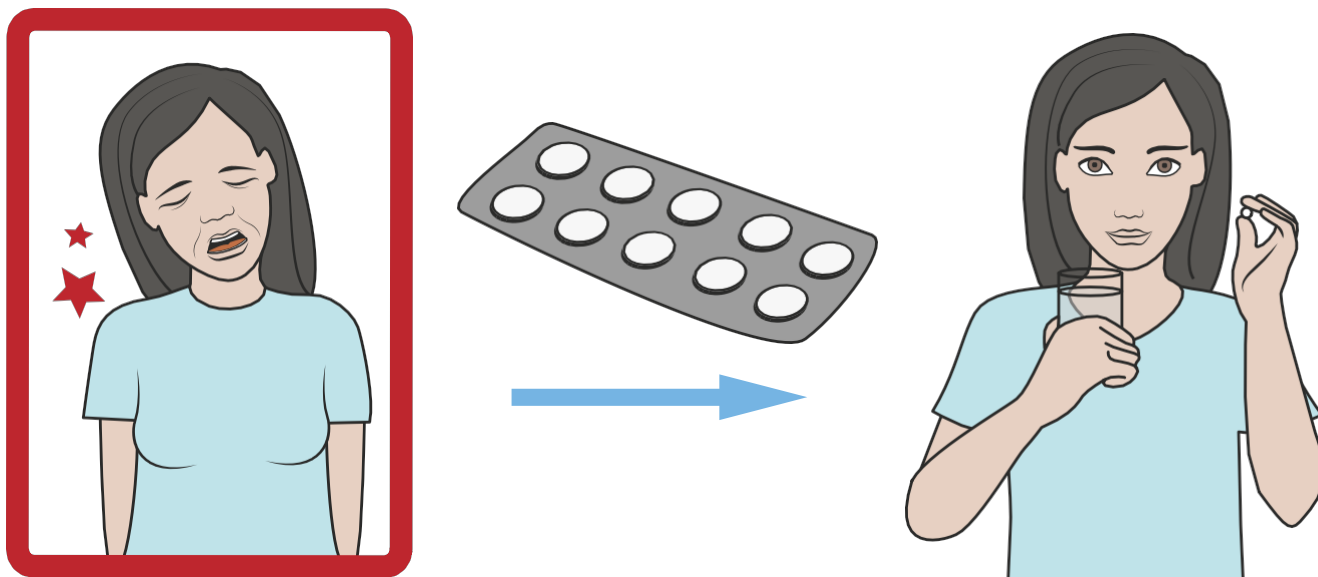
I stay in hospital under observation

- I have to drink water

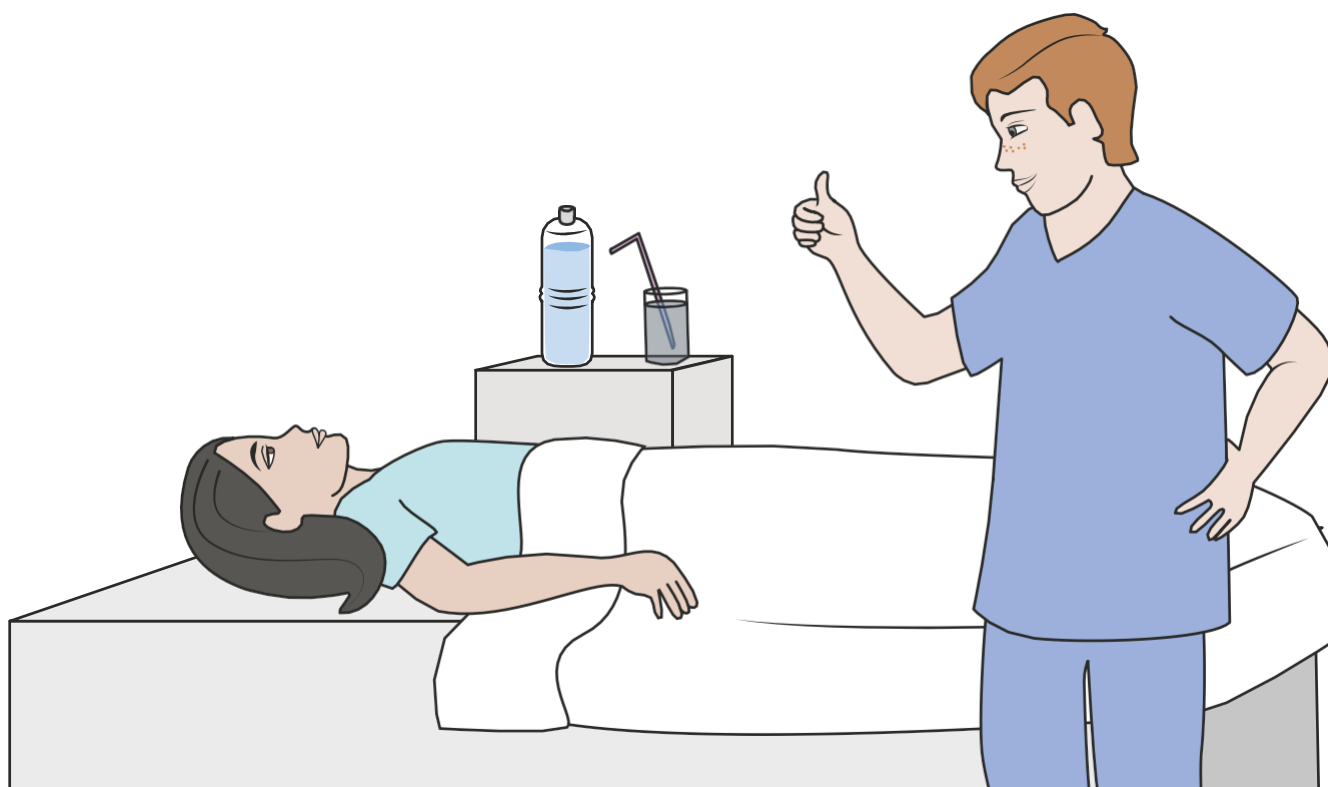


If my back hurts or I have a headache:

- I can ask for a pill



The doctor decides when I can go home





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