A colonoscopy is a procedure that examines the large intestine with a flexible fiberoptic instrument. The doctor is looking for any abnormalities in the colon and may take biopsies. This procedure takes about 20 to 30 minutes. However, you must plan to be at the facility for about 3 hours to allow for intake and recovery time.

Our office will do the precertification for your procedure. It is your responsibility to verify your benefits with your insurance company. Please inform our office if you have any changes to your insurance coverage or insurance carrier prior to your procedure.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT...

1. You bring your ID, insurance card and a list of medications (including dosages) to your appointment.
2. If you take blood thinners such as: Coumadin, Warfarin, Plavix, Xarelto, Pradaxa, Effient, Aggrenox, Eliquis, Brilinta or any other blood thinner, you will need to stop them 5 days prior to your procedure. Please call your Cardiologist or prescribing doctor for instructions on stopping these medications. (See full list on page 2)
3. If you are diabetic and on insulin: Test your blood sugar before you come for your colonoscopy. Take only half of your usual dose of insulin on the day of your procedure.
   If you are diabetic and on oral medication (pills): Take only half the usual dose the day BEFORE the procedure. Do not take your diabetic medication on the day of your colonoscopy. You may take your medication when the procedure is over and you are able to eat.
4. If you are taking any diet pills such as: Fenfluamine, Dexfenfluramine or Phenteramine, stop taking those 2 weeks prior to your colonoscopy.
5. Stop all herbal medications, supplements and vitamins 7 days prior to your procedure.
6. For 4 days prior to your colonoscopy, you must follow a low roughage diet. Do Not Eat nuts, fresh fruits or vegetables, whole grains or seeds. (See full list on page 2)
7. If you take morning medications (with the exception noted above) please only take medications for your heart, blood pressure, asthma, seizure disorder or thyroid with a small sip of water 4 hours prior to your scheduled procedure time.
8. You will not be allowed to drive yourself home after the procedure due to the sedation. Therefore, you will need an adult to drive you home. You may NOT use public transportation. If you do not have a ride, your procedure will be cancelled.

*** Individual responses to laxatives vary. This prep often works within 30 minutes but may take as long as 3 hours. Remain close to toilet facilities as multiple bowel movements may occur.

OVER
**MEDICATIONS TO AVOID 5 DAYS BEFORE YOUR PROCEDURE:**
Coumadin, Warfarin, Plavix, Xarelto, Pradaxa, Effient, Eliquis or Brilinta (as directed by your prescribing doctor) Excedrin, Ibuprofen, Advil, Motrin, Aleve, Naprosyn, Naproxen, Celebrex, Celecoxib, Mobic, Meloxicam, Relafen, Nabumetone. NO herbal medications, supplements or vitamins.

***You may continue to take a low dose (81mg) Aspirin.***

**FOODS TO AVOID 4 DAYS BEFORE YOUR PROCEDURE:**
Fresh fruits with seeds, raw vegetables, nuts, popcorn, seeds, whole grain bread, whole grain pasta, lentils, beans and corn. (You may have apples, pears or peaches that are peeled. **Do Not eat the skins.**)

**PURCHASE THESE NONPRESCRIPTION ITEMS BEFORE YOUR COLONOSCOPY:**
- Dulcolax: 4 tablets (5mg Each) Laxative (not stool softener)
- Magnesium Citrate (1) 10 oz bottle

**2 DAYS BEFORE YOU COLONOSCOPY:**
- Eat your last meal at 6 PM. After that you are on a clear liquid diet.
- Allowed clear Liquids: mineral, bubbly or plain water, Gatorade, apple juice, white grape juice, ginger ale, clear broth or bouillon (without veggies, meats or rice), Jello, all carbonated and noncarbonated soft drinks, plain popsicles, coffee and tea. (no milk or sugar)

**1 DAY BEFORE YOUR COLONOSCOPY:**
- You must start to hydrate yourself, which means you must start to drink extra fluids
- **DO NOT DRINK:** tomato juice, orange juice, grapefruit juice, protein or drinks with fiber in them. NO beer, wine or alcohol is allowed.
- Avoid all liquids or popsicles with red or purple dyes.
- **AT 10 AM:**
  - Take (2) Dulcolax tablet (5mg Tablet = 10mg total) Laxative
- **AT 4 PM:**
  - Drink the bottle of Magnesium Citrate
- **AT 8 PM:**
  - Take 3rd and 4th Dulcolax tablet (5mg Tablet = 10mg total) Laxative
- **AT 8:30 PM:**
  - Start drinking the prep solution, one 8-ounce glass every 10 minutes until 2 liters (half of the bottle) is gone. Put the other half in the refrigerator until morning. You may only have water or clear liquids (a fluid you can see through) after taking this prep. No food or coffee.
  - You **MUST** drink more solution in the morning even if your stool is clear.

**DAY OF COLONOSCOPY:**
- **Start drinking the prep solution 5 hours before your test ______:_______,** one 8 oz glass every 10 minutes until one liter is finished. **You must be done in 1 hour. If your stool is not all liquid and a clear or yellowish color by this point, please continue to drink the rest of the solution.** You must finish drinking your prep **at least 4 hours** before your procedure time.

***After you finish this portion of the prep, you may NOT have any liquids OR solids by mouth. NO FOOD, FLUID, GUM OR CANDY IS ALLOWED.***

***You may take any medications prescribed for your heart, blood pressure, asthma, seizure disorder or thyroid with a small sip of water 4 hours prior to your scheduled procedure time.***

The prep can start working anywhere from 1 hour to 3 hours after you start drinking it at 8:30pm the night before. The day of the procedure, you will have little left to eliminate so there is plenty of time built into the timing for you to make it to the hospital without needing the restroom.