

PLEASE READ THIS FIVE DAYS BEFORE YOUR EXAM

RIVERSIDE MEDICAL S.C.

ERIC J. YEGELWEL MD.
847-577-9300

You are scheduled at one of the following locations:

Northwest Community Hospital Gastroenterology Center
Busse Center Garage (Building 1):
880 W. Central Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005.
2nd Floor

Northwest Endoscopy Center
1415 S. Arlington Heights Rd.
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
Entrance on side of building

WHAT IS A COLONOSCOPY?

Colonoscopy is the examination of the entire colon. The colonoscope is a thin, flexible tube composed of extremely thin fibers of bendable glass that transmit light and images back to the viewer. This allows the entire colon to be visually inspected by the gastroenterologist, a specially trained physician. The colonoscope also has hollow inner channel, which permits the collection of biopsies and the removal of polyps.

WHAT PREPARATION IS NECESSARY?

In order to completely visualize the entire colon it is necessary to clean out the colon prior to the exam you will need to be on clear liquids the day before the exam. We use a colonic lavage solution for which you have been given a prescription. It can be obtained in most pharmacies.

- **If you take an iron supplement or multivitamin with iron, please discontinue 1 week prior to the procedure.**
- **If you take aspirin you should continue taking it before the procedure.**
- **Please contact your prescribing doctor immediately if you take BLOOD THINNERS such as Coumadin/Warfarin, Plavix, Aggrenox, Lovenox, Heparin, Cilostazol, Pletal, Pradaxa, Xarelto, Eliquis, Arixtra, Efficient.**

The amount of time needed to be off the blood thinners varies by the medication being prescribed.

- **If you take anything for DIABETES please contact your prescribing doctor for instructions on how to manage these medications**
- **You will also need to arrange for someone to drive you home after the procedure. You will also need to arrange to have someone stay with you the remainder of the day.**

If you are taking any medication, please contact our office whether to take them the morning of the exam.

HOW IS THE PROCEDURE PERFORMED?

Colonoscopy is performed in the hospital in the endoscopy lab. Using dial controls the gastroenterologist advances the colonoscope from the rectum until reaching the end of the colon. The procedure usually requires 20-30 minutes. On the day of the exam you should report to the endoscopy lab/central outpatient registration one hour prior to your scheduled appointment. After you register you will be asked to change into a gown and an intravenous line will be started. Once you have been sedated the tube is inserted and the procedure is begun. Most patients feel little or no discomfort during the procedure. The doctor will speak to you prior to sedation. After the examination is completed, you will be kept in the recovery area for about one hour. **You will need to arrange for someone to drive you home after the procedure. You are not able to take a taxi or courtesy van home unless you are accompanied by someone else. You will also need to arrange to have someone stay with you the remainder of the day.**

WHEN AM I INFORMED ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THE EXAMINATION?

The results of the test will be discussed with you before you go home. If biopsies are taken or polyps are removed, these results will be available usually in 3-4 days. We will call you with the results. If you do not hear from us in one week, please contact us at the office (847) 577-9300.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF THE PROCEDURE?

When performed by a skilled endoscopist, colonoscopy is remarkably safe. However, there are potential complications. These include drug reaction, bleeding and perforation of the colon. The risk that any complication will occur is extremely low, about 1 in 1000. No medical exam is 100% accurate. There is a small risk of a lesion not being detected. Most complications can be safely managed, medically, although surgical intervention may be required. Even the most thorough exam cannot guarantee that a person will not develop colon cancer in the future.

If for any reason you must cancel or change the time of your procedure, please notify the office, (847) 577-9300 ext. 122 not the hospital. If you do need to cancel or reschedule your procedure, we do require and appreciate one-week notice.

If you have any other questions please feel free to call us.