

# Colonoscopy: Common Questions

---

## What should I bring with me to my exam?

- Please bring a list of your current medications. This should include over-the-counter medications and the strength and dose of each.
- Please do not wear perfume, after shave or lotion. We are a “scent free” area out of respect for our patients and staff.

## Can I drive home after my exam?

- **No. You must arrange for transportation home after your exam.** You must not drive home by yourself. You should not take a bus or cab by yourself. Medications you take during your exam will impair your judgment and reflexes for many hours. This makes driving or traveling alone dangerous. **If you have not arranged for a driver to be present in the department when you leave after your exam, we will not do your exam.** You cannot drive safely until the day after your exam.

## How long does the exam take?

- Please plan to be here for about two hours from start to finish. This time is needed to get you ready for your exam, complete it and watch you after the exam is done.

## How do I need to prepare?

- You must drink **all** the solution as directed in the instructions. This is to make sure you have a clean colon for a successful exam. It is normal to have clear or yellow-colored stool as you finish drinking the solution.

## Do I need to take antibiotics before this exam?

- Tell your doctor if you need antibiotics before you have dental work done. If you do, you may need antibiotics before this exam.

## Are there medications I should not take before this exam?

- If you take insulin, **coumadin**, a pill for diabetes, a water pill, aspirin or Plavix®, you must check with your primary doctor to adjust the dosage of the medication. **If you do not do this, we may need to cancel your colonoscopy.**
- If you take an iron supplement, vitamin with iron, medicine for arthritis or pain relief (such as Advil®, Motrin®, ibuprofen, Naprosyn®, Aleve®, naproxen, or aspirin), you should stop taking them at least one week before your exam, unless your doctor tells you otherwise. You can take Tylenol® and Celebrex® to relieve pain or fever during the week before your exam.
- On the day of your exam, take your medication(s) as usual with a small amount of clear liquid.

## Do I need to have lab work done before the exam?

- If you take coumadin, you must have an INR drawn in the morning **the day before** your exam.

## How much will the exam cost?

- You should call the number on the back of your insurance card. Ask them to give you an estimate of the charges you will be billed for. The cost of the exam is different depending on if it is a routine screening or done to specifically look for a cause related to symptoms (diagnostic).