

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 exactly 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.

Are there medications I should not take before this exam?

- If you take insulin, **coumadin**, a pill for diabetes, a water pill, or Plavix®, you must check with your primary doctor to adjust the dosage of the medication.
- It is **not** necessary to stop taking your aspirin or NSAIDs (Advil®, Motrin®, Aleve®) before your procedure. This recommendation is consistent with National Gastroenterology societies and associations.
- 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).