

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.

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 2 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. **If your stool is not clear yellow, please call our clinic at 651-254-8600.**
- Please do not wear perfume, after shave or lotion. We are a scent-free area out of respect for our patients and staff.

Are there medications I should not take before this exam?

- If you take insulin, a pill for diabetes, Coumadin, Pradaxa, Effient, Apixaban, Plavix, Arixtra, Rivaroxaban or Anagrelide, you must check with your primary care clinician or prescribing clinician 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 medications as usual with a small amount of clear liquid.

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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 or it will be drawn the day of your exam at our clinic.

Polyps

- All polyps will be removed and sent for analysis.

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).

Results

- Results will be sent to you within 7 to 10 business days through the mail (a letter) or through *myHealthPartners* if you have an active HealthPartners account.