

## GREATER BOSTON GASTROENTEROLOGY

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**Please read the materials in this packet as soon as you get them - do not wait until the day of your test. This is important because some of the preparation may begin as early as one week before the day of your test.**

You are scheduled for a procedure on: \_\_\_\_\_ at: \_\_\_\_\_.

Please report to the location checked below 45 minutes early at: \_\_\_\_\_

***MetroWest Medical Center***

115 Lincoln Street  
Endoscopy Dept 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Framingham, MA 01702

***Boston Endoscopy Center***

175 Worcester Street  
Wellesley Hills, MA 02481

***Charles River Endoscopy***

571 Union Avenue  
Framingham, MA 01702

1. It is extremely important that you make arrangements to have a responsible adult available to take you home after your procedure. **You may not drive yourself home after the test.** If you take a cab, someone must ride home with you in the cab (in addition to the cab driver). This is a policy that is strictly enforced for your safety. **No exceptions** are made unless you plan to undergo the procedure without sedation. If you wish to do this, you should discuss with your doctor in advance.
2. You must have the entire day off, no working, no driving, and no plans. You will receive sedatives for your procedure. As you recover from the sedatives, you should not go back to work or school and you should not make important decisions. If you normally care for children or disabled relatives, get help with these responsibilities on the day of your test.
3. **Important** –Do not stop taking any medicine that a doctor has asked you to take without talking first with that doctor. He/she may want you to continue to take the medicine even during your preparation for procedure. If this is the case, please let us know as special arrangements, including a possible pre-procedure office visit may be necessary. Your prescribing physician may need to speak to one of our doctors. This is particularly important for patients on insulin or other diabetes medications and those on Pradaxa, Coumadin, Warfarin, Plavix, Eliquis, Xarelto, Apixaban, Dabigatran, Clopidogrel or Rivaroxaban. Do not assume that it is safe to stop one of these medications even if you have done so before.
4. A \$150.00 cancellation fee will be billed directly to the patient for any appointment not cancelled with a 72 hour notice.

When this procedure was scheduled, the insurance on file for you was: \_\_\_\_\_  
If your insurance changes, you must notify the office at 508-620-9200 at least 14 days prior to your procedure.  
You will be responsible for any charges due to lack of correct insurance information.

### **YOU MUST COMPLETE THE ATTACHED FORMS AND BRING WITH YOU:**

1. PRE PROCEDURE ASSESSMENT FORM
2. CURRENT MEDICATIONS LIST

If your colonoscopy has been scheduled for screening (you have no symptoms with your bowels\*), and your doctor finds a polyp or tissue that has to be removed during the procedure, this colonoscopy is no longer considered a screening procedure. It is considered a surgical procedure and your insurance benefits may change. Please check with your insurance company prior to starting the bowel preparation to assure that you understand your insurance benefits and coverage.

\*Symptoms such as change in bowel habits, diarrhea, constipation, bleeding, anemia, etc.

Preparation of your bowel for colonoscopy consists of a complete flushing of all waste material prior to the examination. Please follow these instructions completely. If you have any questions regarding the preparation, do not hesitate to call us.

There are some very important facts that you need to be aware of:

- 1) If you take **Coumadin or Warfarin**, in general it will need to be discontinued 5 days before the procedure.
- 2) If you take **Plavix or Clopidogrel**, in general it will need to be discontinued 7 days before the procedure.
- 3) If you take **Pradaxa, Eliquis or Xarelto, Rivaroxaban, Apixaban or Dabigatran**, in general it will need to be discontinued for 2 days before the procedure (3 days if you are on dialysis).
- 4) **Important** – do not stop taking any medicine that a doctor has asked you to take without talking first with that doctor. He/she may want you to continue to take the medicine even during your preparation for procedure. If this is the case, please let us know as special arrangements, including a possible pre-procedure office visit may be necessary. Your prescribing physician may need to speak to one of our doctors. This is particularly important for patients on insulin or other diabetes medications and those on **Pradaxa, Coumadin, Warfarin, Plavix, Eliquis, Xarelto, Apixaban, Dabigatran, Clopidogrel or Rivaroxaban** . . Do not assume that it is safe to stop one of these medications even if you have done so before.
- 5) **Important** – you must notify the office if you take any narcotics like Percocet, oxycodone, methadone, morphine and or suboxone.
- 6) You should continue taking all other regular medications, even on the day of the examination.
- 7) It is very important that you drink extra fluid on the day that you are completing your bowel prep. This helps avoid complications such as dehydration, dizziness and fainting.
- 8) If you have **Diabetes**, preparing for a procedure involves some temporary changes in your diet. It is important that you know how to adjust your insulin or your oral medicines during this time.
  - o If you take oral diabetes medication for your diabetes, you should not take it the day before or the night before your procedure. Please consult your doctor when to resume your oral diabetes medication after your procedure.
  - o If you take Insulin, you **MUST** consult the doctor who takes care of your diabetes for any temporary changes to your insulin dosing.
- 9) The next page are your prep instructions, please make sure to read it over carefully and if you have any questions, please contact the office.

## *SUTAB SPLIT-DOSE PREPARATION FOR COLONOSCOPY*

Fill the enclosed prescription for the tablets you will need to take called *SUTAB*.

Please check with your pharmacy regarding the cost, as this may not be covered by insurance.

➤ ONE WEEK PRIOR:

- Do not take iron supplementation for seven days prior to the examination. If you take a vitamin every day, check to see if it has iron. If it does, stop taking it for the seven days before your test.

➤ THREE DAYS PRIOR:

- Do not eat legumes, peas, carrots, corn, tomatoes, watermelon, seeds or nuts for three days before your colonoscopy.

➤ DAY BEFORE EXAM:

○ **CLEAR LIQUIDS ONLY ALL DAY!!**

The following items are those that may be used in a CLEAR LIQUID diet:

Broth, Bouillon, Ginger ale, Sprite, 7-up, Apple juice, White grape juice, Water, Popsicles, Jell-O (no red or purple colored, no fruit or cream added) Black coffee or tea (may have sugar but no milk or cream)

- Any time between 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM complete steps 1 through 4 using one (1) bottle of tablets and the container provided.
  - 1) Open one (1) bottle of 12 tablets.
  - 2) Fill the enclosed container with (16) ounces of water to the fill line. Swallow each tablet with a sip of water and drink the entire amount over 15 to 20 minutes. (If you become uncomfortable take the tablets and water slower but within 30 minutes.)
  - 3) One (1) hour after the last tablet is swallowed, fill the provided container a second time with (16) ounces of water to the fill line, and drink the entire container over (30) minutes.
  - 4) (30) minutes after finishing the second container of water, fill the container a third time with (16) ounces of water to the fill line and drink the entire amount over (30) minutes.

➤ DAY OF EXAM:

- **THIS IS NOT A TYPO.. THIS IS A CHANGE FROM A FEW YEARS AGO. STUDIES HAVE SHOWN THAT THE "SPLIT DOSE" REGIMEN GIVES A BETTER CLEANSING, WHICH MEANS BETTER VISUALIZATION. THAT IS WHY WE REQUIRE THE MORNING DOSE TO BE DONE 6 HOURS PRIOR TO PROCEDURE. "SEE BELOW"**
- 6 (Six) hours before your scheduled procedure
- Repeat steps 1 through 4 above using the other bottle of tablets. This must be completed within 2 hours.
- You can take clear liquids (EXCEPT FOR JELLO) up to four hours before the procedure. If you do not Stop clear liquids 4 hours prior to your procedure, your procedure may be delayed or cancelled.

The examination will take approximately 45 minutes, but this may vary from patient to patient. After the examination is completed, you will spend approximately one hour in our recovery area.

Please keep in mind that this is an estimated appointment time. Because the time involved in each procedure is often unpredictable, and procedures are scheduled to follow each other consecutively; there are occasions when the schedule runs behind. Your patience and understanding are appreciated.

➤ DAY AFTER EXAMINATION:

- You can expect to resume normal activities again unless otherwise indicated. After the procedure, you will be given instructions about diet and medications.

## INFORMATION REGARDING A COLONOSCOPY

### What is a colonoscopy?

A colonoscopy is a procedure which allows the doctor to examine the inside of the colon (also called the large intestine). Colonoscopy is a highly reliable method for determining the presence and severity of diseases of the colon. It can reveal details not seen on x-ray.

### What is a colonoscope?

The colonoscope is a flexible instrument with an optical system which allows the doctor to "see around corners". It has a "steering" mechanism by which the lenses can be pointed in any direction and "operating" channels through which biopsies can be taken and instruments passed, if necessary. A bright light illuminates the inside of the colon after it has been inflated with air. Intestinal liquids can be removed through the instrument by suction, for better visualization.

### How is the procedure performed?

The procedure is performed on an outpatient basis. You will be given intravenous medication called propofol. Propofol is administered by an anesthesiologist to sedate you and make you comfortable. Please notify the office if you have had any problems with propofol in the past, alternative sedation can be given. You will be lying on your left side. The colonoscope will be passed into the rectum and guided through the entire length of the colon. If an abnormality is seen or suspected, a small portion of tissue (biopsy) may be removed for microscopic study. Small growths can frequently be removed (polypectomy) and vascular abnormalities can often be destroyed with an electrical current (electrocoagulation). The visual appearance of pertinent areas may be recorded on photographic film. You may experience cramping sensations as the colonoscope is moved around the corners in the colon, or as air is introduced for better visualization. We will make every effort to minimize the discomfort. Please notify the office if you have had any problems with propofol in the past, alternative sedation can be given.

### What preparation is necessary?

The colon must be thoroughly cleaned and empty at the time of the procedure. This will involve a one-day preparation, which is enclosed. Please follow it exactly.

Colonoscopy is a visual test. Unless your colon is very clean, certain abnormalities may be missed. Please be responsible about ensuring a good preparation for your colonoscopy.

### Can there be complications?

The risk of colonoscopy complications is small. Nevertheless, there is a possibility of colonic perforation or hemorrhage or adverse reaction to medications. Also, as with any procedure, other unforeseen complications may rarely occur. Please read the attached consent form, this is just a sample for your review. You will be asked to sign one just like it at your procedure.

We hope this helps you understand better the procedure you are scheduled to have.

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