

Preparing for your Colonoscopy Procedure

Thank you for choosing the Gastroenterology Associates at Mass General Hospital for your colonoscopy. We want to make sure your procedure goes as smoothly as possible. **Please read all the instructions in this packet at least 1 week before your colonoscopy.** All instructions must be followed or your colonoscopy may be cancelled. If you have any questions about your medicines or your prep instructions, call your MGH Gastroenterologist. If you have any other questions, call us at 617-726-7663.

MGH Gastroenterologist name and phone number:

Patient name:

Scheduled procedure:

Procedure location:

Please Note: There is more than one location for MGH colonoscopy procedures. Your location is listed here.

Date and arrival time:

Please note: Your arrival time is different than the start time for your colonoscopy so you have time to get ready for your procedure.

- **Most patients are ready for discharge within 3 hours of the scheduled arrival time but occasionally unforeseen events occur that result in delays. You will be informed of any potential delays when you arrive.**
- **Your escort should be available to meet you within 30 minutes after we call.**

** Please refer to the day of procedure instructions attached with your prep for important covid pre-procedural related inquiries.*

Plan ahead

- ☐ Update your MGH registration information by calling 866-211-6588.
- ☐ If you have questions about the coverage for your procedures, please call and verify with your insurance company directly.
- ☐ Sign up for a Partners HealthCare Patient Gateway account if you do not have one. It will help with communicating with us. You will be able to see your test results in Patient Gateway within 2 weeks of the procedure.
- ☐ Arrange for an adult escort to take you home after your procedure.
- ☐ Read your prep instructions carefully. Plan to buy any items you will need to start your prep. *Please note your prescription has been sent electronically to your pharmacy.*
- ☐ If your procedure is scheduled at Charles River Plaza (165 Cambridge St) and you use CPAP, home oxygen or have an implantable cardiac defibrillator, call so your exam can be rescheduled in the Blake Building.
- ☐ Please note that MGH policy requires that women, ages 11-55 years old have a pregnancy test prior to having any endoscopic procedure. When you arrive for your procedure, a registered nurse will screen you for the test and if needed, request that you provide a urine sample.
- ☐ Read the information about the day of your procedure in this packet. It will tell you what to bring.

It is very important that you keep this appointment. **If you must cancel, please call us at least 5 business days before your appointment** by calling 617-726-7663. Calling ahead allows us to reschedule your appointment and give that slot to another patient. **If you cancel late, we may not be able to reschedule your appointment.**

For driving directions, please visit the MGH Parking and Visitor Information website at www.massgeneral.org/visit. If you are using GPS, please make sure to use the correct zip code.

For more information and frequently asked questions, please visit our website www.massgeneral.org/endoscopy.



These instructions tell you what you will need to do to clean your bowels so that your doctor can see polyps or other problems inside your colon. If your bowels are not clean, you may have to reschedule your test. If you have questions about this colonoscopy prep, call your MGH gastroenterologist.

Items you will need to buy

- ☐ **Prescription laxative.** Do not mix it with water until the afternoon before your procedure. Some prescription laxatives will come with a flavor packet. You can use that if you want. Or you can buy Lemon Flavored Crystal Light™ and add it to flavor the laxative.
- ☐ **Simethicone anti-gas pills.** Any brand is fine. Examples include Gas-X, Mylanta Gas, or Maalox Anti-Gas.
- ☐ **Clear liquids that are not colored red, purple or orange.** Clear liquid is any liquid that you can see through. Examples include water, tea, black coffee, clear broth, apple juice, white grape juice, sodas, sports drinks like Gatorade, and Jell-O.
- ☐ **Products to help with anal irritation** including baby wipes and Vaseline. If you have hemorrhoids you can use cream or Tucks pads.
- ☐ **Milk of magnesia.** If you move your bowels 2 times a week or less or if you use a laxative more than 2 times a month, buy milk of magnesia.

Medications

- If you have diabetes, ask your primary care practitioner about changes in your diabetes medicine dose. If you take insulin, we usually recommend that you take ½ your normal dose on the day of the procedure.
- If you take blood thinners, we recommend you take them unless your MGH gastroenterology doctor told you to stop taking them.



Colonoscopy 4-Liter (GoLYTELY®, NuLYTELY®)

Five (5) days before your procedure:

If you take vitamins, iron pills, or liquid antacids, stop taking them 5 days before your procedure.

Two (2) days before your procedure:

- Don't eat popcorn, seeds, nuts, salad, corn, beans, peas, whole grain or whole wheat breads, raw fruits or raw vegetables: well-cooked fruits and vegetable are acceptable.
- If you move your bowels 2 times a week or less or if you use a laxative more than 2 times a month, at **bedtime**, take 4 tablespoons of milk of magnesia.

One (1) day before your procedure:

Follow a clear liquid diet only. Clear liquid is any liquid that you can see through. Do not drink any red, purple or orange liquids. Examples of clear liquids include: Water, tea, black coffee, clear broth, apple juice, white grape juice, sodas, sports drinks like Gatorade, and Jell-O.

Remember! The day before your exam, don't drink or eat:

- solid foods
- dairy products
- alcoholic drinks

6 pm (the day before your procedure)

- Drink half of the laxative. Save other half for tomorrow.
- Start by drinking 8 ounces which is 1 cup of the laxative.
- Repeat this drink every 10 minutes until you have had about ½ of the total container of laxative.
- Keep drinking the laxative on schedule even though you may not start moving your bowels for 2 to 3 hours.

9 pm (the day before your procedure)

- Take 2 gas pills with 8 ounces of clear liquid.

10 pm (the day before your procedure)

- Take 2 gas pills with 8 ounces of clear liquid



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Day of your procedure:

If your arrival time is early in the morning, you will need to finish drinking the laxative in the early morning hours even if this means you will not get much sleep. Take your morning pills with clear liquids. If you stopped taking vitamins, iron pills, or liquid antacids, do not take them today.

6 hours before your scheduled arrival time:

- Drink the last half of the laxative.
- Drink 8 ounces which is 1 cup of the laxative.
- Repeat this drink every 10 minutes until the laxative is gone.
- You must drink ALL the laxative 4 hours before your arrival time.

2 hours before your scheduled arrival time:

- Stop drinking all liquids.
- Do not chew gum or eat any food.
- If you drink liquids, chew gum, eat hard candy or eat food within 2 hours of your procedure, it will be postponed or cancelled.

Comfort tips

- If you feel sick to your stomach, wait 30 minutes then start drinking smaller amounts.
- Try drinking the laxative through a straw.
- If you don't like the taste of the laxative, try chewing gum or sucking on hard candy in between drinks.
- Use baby wipes, Vaseline, or hemorrhoid cream if you get sore from moving your bowels.
- The gas pills help with the bubbles forming in your colon. This also helps the doctor see better.

If you have questions about these colonoscopy preparation instructions, call your MGH gastroenterologist.

The Day of Your Colonoscopy Procedure

Bring these things with you to your colonoscopy procedure

- ☐ Your photo identification.
- ☐ The name and phone number of your escort.
- ☐ You may wear your wedding rings but no other jewelry.

The day of your procedure

- The time for your appointment is earlier than the time your procedure will start so you can get ready.
- Before the procedure, we will review the procedure with you and ask you to sign a consent form. (see last page)
- Most procedures take about 3 hours. We make every effort to keep on time, but sometimes there are delays.
- We will call your escort 30 minutes before you are ready to leave.

After the procedure

- Most people need to rest at home for the remainder of the day. Don't drive or operate any machines on the day of your procedure. Avoid making any important decisions. Avoid drinking alcohol.
- You can go back to eating as you normally do right away.
- You will get a letter in the mail with your test results within 2 weeks after your colonoscopy. If you have a Partners HealthCare Patient Gateway account, you can also see your results there.

Remember

- You cannot drive after your procedure.
- We will have to cancel your procedure if you do not have an adult escort to meet you in the endoscopy unit and bring you home.
- Your escort should be able to pick you up 30 minutes after we call them.

For any questions about this information call 617-726-7663.



CONSENT FOR PROCEDURE

Patient Identification Area
PATIENT MUST BE IDENTIFIED BY
NAME AND MEDICAL RECORD NUMBER

I hereby authorize _____ to perform the following procedure(s)

Procedure Colonoscopy with possible biopsy or polypectomy

Site: Massachusetts General Hospital

If laterality applies: ☐ Right ☐ Left ☐ Both Sides ☒ NA

I have been informed of 1) the potential risks and benefits of the procedure(s); and 2) the risks and benefits of the alternatives, including the consequences of not having the procedure(s).

I am aware that the practice of medicine and surgery is not an exact science, and I acknowledge that no guarantees have been made to me concerning the results of the proposed treatment(s) or procedure(s).

Further I am aware that there are possible risks, such as loss of blood, infection or pain that may accompany any surgical, diagnostic or therapeutic procedure. The following additional risks were explained to me:

Colonoscopy is a procedure for examination of the colon through which biopsies may be taken and polyps removed. Although colonoscopy is generally safe, some infrequent and possibly serious complications may occur. The most common problem is a reaction to one of the drugs given for the purpose of sedation. Some of the complications of conscious sedation include low blood pressure, low oxygen levels, and changes in heart rhythm. More serious complications of colonoscopy are hemorrhage, injury to the spleen, and perforation, which may require hospitalization, blood transfusion, or surgery. These complications are more frequent following polyp removal, but serious problems usually occur in less than one percent of patients. An additional risk of colonoscopy is the possibility that a polyp, lesion or even a cancer could be missed during the examination.

If procedural sedation will be used during this procedure, I understand that this sedation has risks. My physician has discussed the use of procedural sedation. The risks include but are not limited to slower breathing and low blood pressure that may require treatment.

I understand that a potential risk or complication of the procedure is the loss of blood. I understand that I may require blood products during the procedure or in the post-procedure period. If I refuse blood products, I will complete a separate release for blood-free treatment form.

I understand that one or more healthcare industry professionals (technical representatives for medical equipment and device companies) or observers may be present during this procedure for advisory or observational purposes only.

The hospital may photograph, videotape, or record my procedure/surgery for educational, research, quality and other healthcare operations purposes. Any information used for these purposes will not identify me.

I understand that blood or other samples removed during this procedure may later be disposed of by Massachusetts General Hospital. These materials also may be used by Massachusetts General Hospital, its partners, or affiliates for research, education and other activities that support Massachusetts General Hospital's mission.

A team of medical professionals will work together to perform my procedure/surgery. The role and involvement of the senior attending in my procedure has been discussed with me, including that he/she may join the procedure after the opening of the surgical site or may leave during the closing of the surgical site, and may need to step away during non-critical portions of the procedure. The roles of additional practitioners involved in the procedure, indicated below, have also been explained to me. I understand that other medical professionals may be involved in the procedure who are not listed below. The name of those practitioners will be shared with me after the procedure.

Role of Practitioner (check all that apply)	Name of Practitioner if known
☐ Fellow.	
☐ Resident. Specify Year:	
☐ Physician Assistant	
☐ Advanced Practice Nurse	
☐ Other, please specify:	
☐ Other, please specify:	

I have had a chance to ask questions about the risks, benefits, side effects, likelihood of achieving the goals of this procedure, and other approaches. All my questions were answered to my satisfaction and I give permission to have the procedure.

Patient/Surrogate Decision Maker Signature	Printed Name if not Patient	AM PM	
		Date	Time
Practitioner Obtaining Consent Signature	Printed Name	AM PM	
		Date	Time

Attending Physician/Primary Practitioner Attestation (not required if individual obtained original consent)

I attest that I discussed all relevant aspects of this procedure/surgery, including the indications, risks, and benefits, as compared with alternative approaches with the patient or surrogate decision maker, answered their questions, and provided information regarding other medical professionals who will be present during the surgery.

Attending Signature	Printed Name	AM PM	
		Date	Time

If interpreter was used please complete name or number of interpreter: _____

Telephone Consent

Date: _____ Time: _____ AM PM

Reason for Telephone Consent: _____

Surrogate Decision Maker Name: _____

Consent Received by: _____

Consent Witnessed by: _____