# Colonoscopy

**Gastroenterology Procedure Unit**

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## Screening Saves Lives

Colorectal Cancer is the second leading cancer killer in the United States. If you are 50 or older or have a family history of cancer, getting a colorectal screening can save your life.

- Colorectal Cancer often starts from a non-cancerous growth called a polyp that is in the rectum or colon.
- A colonoscopy can find polyps so that they can be removed before they turn into cancer.
- A colonoscopy can also find colorectal cancer early when the chances of being cured is good.

## Preparing For Your Exam: What to Bring

- An adult (18 years or older) to drive you home. You can take a cab, medical transport or bus only if an adult is riding with you after your visit.
- All medications you are taking, even over the counter medications.
- Any vitamins and supplements you take
- Your insurance card

## Medications

Call your doctor for medication instructions at least one week before your exam if you:

- Take Diabetes Medication
- Have a heart valve replacement
- Take Plavix, Brilinta or Aggrenox, or any other antiplatelet medications
- Take Coumadin (Warfarin), Xarelto, Pradaxa, Eliquis, Savaysa or other blood thinning medications
- Continue taking Aspirin unless told not to

## OsmoPrep Bowel Prep

### 5 Days Before Your Exam

**Fill your bowel prep prescription and review these instructions.**

The colon must be cleared of all solid matter so that the doctor can see clearly. **If your colon is not clean your exam may be cancelled.**

### 3 Days Before Your Exam

- Do not eat any raw fruits, raw vegetables, seeds or nuts and no dairy.
- Stop iron and fiber supplements
- Plan for your ride home

### 2 Days Before Your Exam

- Do not eat any raw fruits, raw vegetables, seeds or nuts and no dairy.
# Colonoscopy: Preparing for Your Exam

## The Day Before Your Exam

Do not eat any solid food. Begin clear liquid diet in the morning.

- **Examples of clear liquids are:** clear broth (chicken or beef), water, apple juice, Gatorade, popsicles and coffee or tea (no milk or creamer). You can have hard candy.
- **Drink at least 8 glasses of water** or clear liquid to stay hydrated.
- Do not have any red or purple liquids

### 6pm The Day Before Your Exam

Do not eat any solid food. Start taking the bowel prep

- Take 4 OsmoPrep tablets with 1 cup (8 ounces) of clear liquids every 15 minutes.
- Do this until you have taken a total of 20 OsmoPrep tablets.
- Continue to drink plenty of clear liquids.

**Tips**

- Drink the dose quickly.
- Try drinking with a straw.
- Rinse your mouth with water or mouthwash.
- Suck on hard candy.

### 5 Hours Before Your Exam

- You may have to wake up very early if your exam is in the morning.
- Take your doctor approved medication.
- You can take aspirin, blood pressure medication, prednisone or other steroids.
- **Take 4 OsmoPrep tablets with 1 cup (8 ounces) of clear liquid every 15 minutes. Do this until you have taken a total of 12 OsmoPrep tablets.** Do not skip this step. It is important to get the cleanest colon for a successful exam.
- Continue clear liquid diet until 2 hours before your appointment time.
- Your stool should be a clear yellow liquid.

### 2 Hours Before Your Exam

Do not eat or drink anything or your exam may be cancelled.

Arrive to your exam 1 hour before the appointment time.

- **Hyde Park Location:** Center for Care and Discovery (CCD) 7th Floor 5700 South Maryland Ave, Chicago, IL 60637  (773) 702-8402
- **Tinley Park Location:** Ingalls Family Care Center, Entrance C 6701 West 159th Street Tinley Park, Illinois 60477  (708) 429-0222