



Digestive Health Center

FLEXIBLE SIGMOIDOSCOPY INSTRUCTIONS

Appointment Date: _____ Arrival Time: _____ Procedure Time: _____ Physician: _____

**Plan to spend 3 – 4 hours in the GI Lab

- Location
- 259 E Erie St, **Lavin** Pavilion,
16th floor, Chicago, IL
 - 675 N Saint Clair St, **Galter** Pavilion,
4th floor, Chicago, IL

Insurance Codes:

Procedure Code (CPT): 45331

Diagnosis Code (ICD 10): _____

Welcome

Northwestern Medicine Memorial Hospital strives for your experience with Endoscopy Services and the hospital to be excellent. Your safety and comfort are our primary concern and we want your stay to be an exceptional experience.

Appointment Information

You will receive an arrival time for your procedure. Please be aware that your procedure may be delayed due to unforeseen circumstances.

Please keep your original appointment. If you need to re-schedule your procedure, you MUST give at least a 7-day notice.

For scheduling related matters, please call: 312.926.0628

For clinical concerns/questions, please call: 312.695.5620

Transportation and Parking

If you are receiving sedation for your procedure:

Please plan to be in our department for 3-3.5 hours starting at your **arrival time** (not procedure time). For your own safety post-sedation, **you will need a ride home from a responsible adult**. Please make transportation arrangements for a responsible adult to pick you up and accompany you back to your home once discharged. **You cannot take a Taxi, Rideshare (Uber, Lyft, etc.) or public transportation by yourself.** Your procedure will be cancelled if we can't get in contact with your ride during admitting processes. Please be sure your ride is prepared to answer our phone call. Your ride will receive an additional call 1-hour prior to your estimated discharge time. Please ensure your ride anticipates receiving this call around 2-2.5 hours after **arrival time**. Your ride must present to our department to pick you up. Our staff is not be able to escort you to the lobby or parking garage to meet your ride.

If you do not have someone who can bring you home after your GI Lab procedure, you can arrange a ride home with Illinois Medi-Car through Superior Ambulance Company by calling 312.926.5988.

Parking for the Lavin location is available within the Lavin building located at 259 E. Erie Street, which is accessible from both Erie and Ontario streets. Bring your parking ticket to the GI lab for validation to receive a discount on your parking deck fee. Valet parking is available. Parking for the Galter Pavilion is located at 222 E. Huron Street. Use second floor bridge to access Galter Pavilion. For more information on our parking garage locations, parking deck fees, and a map, please visit www.nm.org.

<u>Timeline</u>	<u>Procedure Preparation</u>
14 DAYS BEFORE THE PROCEDURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If you are taking a blood thinner (Coumadin, Plavix, Eliquis, etc.) other than aspirin, please contact your prescribing physician at least 2 weeks before your procedure to discuss how long to hold these medications. Your prescribing physician will tell you how many days prior to your procedure to stop/bridge your blood thinner. You may continue to take aspirin.
7 DAYS BEFORE THE PROCEDURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If you take certain medications for weight loss or diabetes, Click here for instructions ➤ If you are taking a blood thinner (Coumadin, Plavix, Eliquis, etc.) other than aspirin, please begin following <u>your prescribing physician's instructions</u> for discontinuing or bridging this medication prior to the procedure. You may continue to take aspirin. ➤ If you are taking diabetic medication, please contact the prescribing physician to discuss dosage adjustments to avoid low blood sugar. ➤ Please ensure you have obtained your 4 fleets enemas from your pharmacy.
3 DAYS BEFORE THE PROCEDURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Please contact your insurance company to verify coverage and if you will have any out-of-pocket costs, or precertification requirements. Please see the insurance/billing handout for more information on billing, coding, and potential out-of-pocket costs. ➤ This procedure is often performed without sedation. If your physician indicates that you will be receiving sedation, please make transportation arrangements utilizing the transportation and parking section of this document.
THE DAY BEFORE THE PROCEDURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If you develop any moderate to severe cold symptoms (cough, sore throat, runny nose, etc.), a fever, new cut or wounds, or experience any other changes in your health before your procedure, please contact your physician's office. <p><u>Diet Instructions:</u></p> <p><u>If you are receiving sedation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Do not eat anything including gum, mints, tobacco, cough drops, or smoke any substance (i.e. tobacco, vape, marijuana) after midnight. ➤ After midnight, you may have plain water, tea (no milk or creamer may be added, however, sugar and artificial sweeteners are permitted, no coffee), apple juice, or Gatorade up to 2 hours prior to your scheduled arrival time. All other beverages/drinks are to be avoided after midnight. <p><u>If you are not having sedation,</u> there are no eating or drinking restrictions prior to the procedure.</p> <p>Bowel Preparation: Please follow these bowel preparation instructions carefully. The rectum and the lower portion of your colon must be completely emptied of stool so your physician can view the lining of the colon. You will need to purchase 4 Fleet Enemas (a liquid solution that washes out the intestine) which are available over the counter (no prescription is needed).</p> <p>Note: if you have <u>chronic kidney disease/failure</u>, please discard the enema solution and fill</p>

FLEXIBLE SIGMOIDOSCOPY PREPARATION GUIDELINES

bottles with warm tap water instead as this will be easier on your kidneys.

Prior to the Sigmoidoscopy (approximately 1 to 2 hours before your arrival time) begin your bowel preparation. Please complete this prior to arriving for the procedure. Follow the instructions on the enema box:

- Lie on your left side on a flat surface
- Draw your knees up toward your stomach
- Remove the top of the enema
- Insert the enema tip fully into the rectum
- Squeeze the enema contents into the rectum
- Hold the enema liquid as long as possible - **3 to 5 minutes is typical**
- Wait for results or bowel movements between each enema
- If your stool is clear, you do not have to take the 4th enema.
- If you see any stool after the 3rd enema, use the 4th enema.

THE DAY OF YOUR PROCEDURE

- On the day of your procedure, please be available by phone. Occasionally, procedure times are adjusted if the previous cases have run longer or are finished early.
- Call your surgery center if you cannot arrive at your scheduled time at 312.926.2425.
- Bring a photo ID and insurance card.
- If you have an implanted cardiac defibrillator or pacemaker, bring your device card with you.
- If you use any inhalers or a CPAP machine, please bring these items with you to the procedure as they may be needed for the procedure.
- Wear loose-fitting, comfortable clothes.
- Avoid wearing make-up, jewelry, or contact lenses.
- If you wear contacts, please bring your glasses as your contacts may need to be removed for the procedure.
- For your privacy and safety, only one guest is allowed in the pre-operative and postoperative holding areas.
- Your personal items will be placed and remain under your procedure cart during the entire visit. We recommend bringing only essential items to the hospital and leaving any valuables at home or give them to a trusted family member or friend. The hospital is not responsible for lost or damaged personal belongings.

GENERAL

- Please follow the dosage timing as provided within the prescribed bowel preparation instructions. This method gives the best bowel preparation/cleansing possible. An excellent bowel preparation is crucial for an adequate exam.
- Be sure to finish the entire prep or else the rectum/sigmoid colon may not clean adequately.

- The bowel preparation may result in urgency so please plan appropriately.
- **If you are not having sedation**, there are **no** eating or drinking restrictions prior to the procedure.
- **If you are having sedation**, you may have plain water, black coffee/tea (no milk or creamer may be added, however, sugar and artificial sweeteners are permitted), apple juice, or Gatorade up to 2 hours prior to your scheduled arrival time – after this, nothing by mouth. This includes gum, mints, hard candy, cough drops, and cigarettes/tobacco/vape/marijuana.
- For example, for a 7:30 AM arrival time, nothing by mouth after 5:30 AM.

MEDICATIONS

- If you take certain **medications for weight loss or diabetes**, [Click here for instructions](#)
- If you are taking a **blood thinner (Coumadin, Plavix, Eliquis, etc.)** other than aspirin, please contact your prescribing physician at least 2 weeks before your procedure to discuss how long to hold these medications. You may continue to take aspirin.
 - Do NOT wait until the day before your procedure to have this discussion, as some blood thinners need to be held several days prior to the procedure.
 - Aspirin, NSAIDs, and fish oil are okay to continue taking.
- If you are taking **diabetic medication**, please contact the prescribing physician to discuss dosage adjustments to avoid low blood sugar.
- You may take your other normal medications up until 2 hours prior to arrival time.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please review this document and the FAQ section before calling our office with questions as your question may be answered from within this document.

Clinic	312.695.5620
Procedure Scheduling	312.926.0628
Pre-Certification	312.926.4645
Billing	844.669.2455
Financial counseling/price estimates	312.926.6906
Hospital	312.926.9000
Medical Records	312.926.3376
Digestive Health Fax	312.695.7095
dhc.nm.org	

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will the procedure be performed under anesthesia?

- Unless your doctor or nurse tells you otherwise, your procedure will be performed under moderate sedation or without sedation. If you are scheduled with sedation, a peripheral IV will be inserted and two medications will be administered (Versed and Fentanyl); these will make you very sleepy/drowsy during the procedure which is why you need to have a capable adult accompany you home.

What if I have a cold?

- If you have a mild cold with no fever, it is okay to take Tylenol and other over the counter cold medications and proceed with the preparation and the procedure. However, if you have a fever or more severe symptoms, it may be safer to call and reschedule the procedure. Please call the office to further discuss.

Will having my period interfere with the flexible sigmoidoscopy?

- Not at all. It is absolutely fine to use a tampon and/or pad.

Which medications should I take on the day of the procedure?

- See Medication section in the beginning of this document for information regarding diabetic and blood thinner medications. All other medications can be taken up until 2 hours prior to your arrival time, or after the procedure.

Pregnant or breast feeding

- Please let us know if you are or could be pregnant because, except in very rare cases, a flexible sigmoidoscopy should not be performed.
- If you are breastfeeding, you may resume breastfeeding once you are awake, stable, and alert after your procedure unless otherwise instructed by your physician.

Pre-procedural Antibiotics

- Antibiotics are rarely needed prior to a flexible sigmoidoscopy. If you are a patient with kidney failure who receives peritoneal dialysis, please notify us ahead of time by calling our office at least 3 days prior to your procedure. IV antibiotics will be given prior to the procedure. If any of your other doctors feels it is necessary for you to receive antibiotics for another reason, he/she can give you a prescription for them.

What can I expect in terms of recovery?

- If you receive sedation, the medication used during your procedure will help you feel relaxed and calm. There is a possibility you may remember parts of your procedure, but many do not. After your procedure, you may feel weak, tired, or unsteady on your feet. You may also have trouble concentrating or short-term memory loss, but these symptoms should go away in 12-24 hours. For these reasons, do not drive, make important decisions, drink alcohol, operate machinery, or return to work for the rest of the day. We strongly recommend that you go home and rest. You may return to normal activity the following day unless instructed otherwise by your physician.