

Your procedure is scheduled with:

- Dr. Robert D. Thomson
- Dr. Burr J. Loew

Your procedure: _____

is scheduled on _____ at

CH Laconia Endoscopy Suite
80 Highland Street, Laconia, NH 03246
(603) 527-2925

You will receive a phone call from the CH Laconia Endoscopy Suite the day prior to your procedure with your arrival time.

Please use the **Hospital Main Entrance** and check in at the desk in the lobby.

You must have someone to drive you home after the procedure. Sedation will be given for the exam and this may affect you for several hours. You will not be allowed to drive for 24 hours following the procedure. A taxi can only be used if you are accompanied by a friend or family member. When you return home it is advisable for someone to stay with you until effects of the sedation have worn off.

NO WORK UNTIL THE FOLLOWING DAY.

Additional instructions for after your procedure will be given prior to discharge.

**If you need to reschedule your appointment, please call GI Associates at
(603) 228-1763 at least 2 weeks in advance
so we may accommodate other patients waiting to be seen.**

GI ASSOCIATES OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

MEDICATIONS BEFORE YOUR PROCEDURE

It is important that you continue your medications as prescribed by your provider.

****However, there are certain medications that need to be stopped or adjusted before your procedure.**

Over the Counter Medications

- **5 days before your procedure, stop taking:** Fish oil supplements, any vitamin supplements that contain vitamin E and/or iron, and NSAIDs (ibuprofen, Motrin®, Aleve®, Naprosyn®, and any pain or other medications that contain NSAIDs).
- **If you are having an Upper Endoscopy procedure, stop taking:** all aspirin and also all of the above medications 5 days before your procedure.
- **You may take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) products** as directed by the package labeling.

Arthritis Medication

- **3 days before your procedure, stop taking** certain arthritis medication. Call the GI Associates office (number below) to find out if your arthritis medication must be stopped.

Diuretics (Water Pills)

- **The day before your procedure, stop** diuretics or “water pills” until after your procedure. These medications can make you dehydrated and affect your blood pressure during your colon preparation.

Diabetes Medication

- **The day before your procedure, take** ½ of your usual dose of diabetes medications (injections and/or pills).
- **Do not take these medications on the day of your procedure.**
- It is important to monitor your blood sugar while doing your bowel preparation. Be sure to check your blood sugar at home at all meals, bedtime, and the morning of your exam.
- If you use an insulin pump, please call your primary care provider or the diabetic educator for instructions.

Blood Thinning Medications

Certain blood thinning medications may be stopped by your provider. We will contact your provider, and let you know if you need to stop those 5 days before your procedure. If you take warfarin (Coumadin®), you will need to have a prothrombin time performed before 11:00 AM the day before your procedure.

If you have questions, or are unsure how to take your medications, call the GI Associates Office at (603) 228-1763 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

LOW FIBER DIET – 2 days before procedure

A low fiber diet includes foods that are easy to digest and do not leave residue in your colon while you are preparing for your colonoscopy.

Low Fiber Foods Include:

- Enriched white bread (NO whole wheat, oat or multigrain)
- White rice or plain enriched pasta or noodles
- Cereals with NO MORE THAN 1 GM of dietary fiber per serving
- Canned fruits without skins, seeds or membranes (examples: canned peaches, pears, fruit cocktail)
- Canned soups without corn or peas (examples, tomato or chicken noodle soups)
- Eggs
- Well cooked turkey, chicken or fish
- Juices without pulp
- Condiments (plain yellow non-grainy mustard, mayonnaise, ketchup)
- Well-cooked white potatoes cooked without the skin
- Small amounts margarine, butter or oil for cooking

DO NOT USE:

- **Whole wheat, whole grain, oats or multigrain bread and other products containing these**
 - **Brown or wild rice**
 - **Raw or dried fruits and vegetables**
 - **Dried beans, baked beans, peas or corn of any kind**
 - **Flax or any food products containing flax, nuts or seeds**
 - **Popcorn or any snack food containing corn, nuts or seeds**
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CLEAR LIQUID DIET – Day before procedure

A clear liquid diet includes only liquids without pulp and particles and, when held up to light you can see through it. All red-colored liquids must be avoided as they may hide polyps and/or alter the natural color of the colon mucosa.

Clear liquid choices are:

- Water
- Juice that you can see through (examples: apple, white grape)
- Jell-O® (gelatin) any flavor **except** any with red coloring/dye
- Popsicles®, Italian ice, or ice pops without fruit (no sherbet or ice cream)
- Fat-free chicken or beef broth or bouillon
- Soda
- Sports drinks – **any flavor except red drinks**
- Powdered clear “juice” mixes such as Kool-Aid® or Crystal Light® – **any flavor except red flavors/dyes**
- Coffee or tea with sugar or artificial sweetener but **NO dairy** (milk, cream or non-dairy creamers)

DO NOT USE:

- **Dairy products (milk, cream, non-dairy creamers, half and half, ice cream, soy milk, etc.)**
- **Juices with pulp (orange, grapefruit, pineapple, tomato, apricot, etc.)**
- **Soups such as chicken noodle or other soups that contain vegetables, noodles, pasta or tomato. Broths must be clear and “see-through” without particles.**

Colonoscopy Prep – MIRALAX®

If you need to cancel or reschedule your procedure, please call us at 603-228-1763 at least 2 weeks in advance so we may accommodate other patients who are waiting to be seen.

MIRALAX® (polyethylene glycol) is a non-prescription bowel preparation available at pharmacies and stores that sell pharmacy supplies. It is sugar free and gluten free.

Purchase these items 5-7 Days Prior	2 Days Prior	1 Day Prior	Procedure Day
<p>Go shopping!</p> <p><u>Over-the-counter items to purchase (no prescription required):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two – 64-ounce bottles of NON-RED colored Gatorade® One - 238-gram bottle of MIRALAX® (generic is OK) Simethicone (Gas-X®, Mylanta®, or generic) <u>tablets</u> – You will need 4 tablets of either 80mg or 125mg (red or chewable are OK). Four - Dulcolax® (Bisacodyl) pills <u>If you have a tendency to be constipated or take medications that cause constipation</u>, also purchase Milk of Magnesia to take 2 days before your procedure. <p><u>Recommend supplies to purchase:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zinc oxide or Desitin® ointment may be used to protect your skin during the bowel preparation. Apply it before starting the bowel prep to prevent irritation to the rectal area. 	<p>Start a Low-Fiber Diet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No beans, corn, peas, tomatoes, cucumbers, nuts or any food containing seeds such as poppy, sesame or sunflower. No foods containing flax or fish oil. <p>For more details on Low-Fiber Diet, see the guidelines included with this packet.</p> <p><u>If you tend to be constipated</u>, – take one ounce of Milk of Magnesia at 4:00pm.</p>	<p>In the morning – Take 4 Dulcolax® pills</p> <p>Drink only clear liquids – No Dairy. NO SOLID FOODS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See the Clear-Liquid Guidelines included in the packet. No artificially colored red liquids or red Jell-O®. DO NOT USE RED-COLORED GATORADE® FLAVORS <p>Mix HALF of the MIRALAX® into each 64-ounce bottle of NON-RED colored Gatorade®. Shake both bottles and refrigerate. It tastes better cold.</p> <p>5:00pm – Start drinking the Gatorade® mixed with MIRALAX®. Drink 8 ounces every 15 to 20 minutes until you have completed one full 64-ounce bottle and half of the second 64-ounce bottle (1 ½ bottles). Shake the solution well before pouring each glass.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you feel bloated or full, take a break, but be sure to drink at least one whole bottle and half of the other bottle before going to bed. <p><u>Immediately after completing 75% of the solution</u> – Take 2 simethicone tablets.</p> <p>Your provider requests that you drink some of the solution the next morning to give you the best results.</p>	<p>Starting 4 hours prior to your procedure – Drink the remaining (1/2 of one bottle) amount of the Gatorade® mixture. Drink 8 ounces every 15 to 20 minutes until gone. <u>You need to finish the entire solution at least 2 hours prior to your procedure.</u></p> <p><u>Immediately after finishing the solution</u> – take the last 2 simethicone tablets.</p> <p>If you are also having an examination of your esophagus and stomach (EGD) - Start drinking the remaining solution 6 hours prior and stop drinking liquids 4 hours before your procedures.</p> <p>Be sure to drink all the prep. Not completing the bowel prep or eating solid food may result in rescheduling your procedure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Results should be watery and without solid particles, however there may be a few flecks in the morning. If you have questions about your results call the GI Associates office at 603-228-1763. <p>You must stop everything by mouth 2 hours (4 hours if having an upper endoscopy) before your procedure – NO FOOD, NO LIQUIDS, AND NO WATER.</p>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT COLONOSCOPY PROCEDURES

This information will help you to understand your colonoscopy procedure. You will be asked to sign an informed consent based on the following information. If you have any questions after reading this information, please call GI Associates of NH at (603) 228-1763. Your questions are important to us and we want you to feel good about taking this important step to improving your health. While colonoscopy procedures and sedation are effective and safe, we want you to be informed about all of the possible side effects and complications. The nurses will explain the procedure to you during the admission process when you arrive for your procedure and you will also have the opportunity to ask the provider any questions you may have before your procedure and before you receive any sedation.

What is a colonoscopy?

Colonoscopy is the direct visualization of the digestive tract with a narrow, flexible and lighted instrument, called a colonoscope. A camera system in the colonoscope allows the provider to take pictures of your digestive tract. The lining of the digestive tract will be inspected thoroughly and possibly photographed. Following the diet instructions and completing the bowel preparation in this packet allows the gastroenterologist a clear view of the gastrointestinal tract. Abnormalities can be hidden from view if food debris or stool is still present in the gastrointestinal tract. On the rare occasion that the preparation is not sufficient, we may have to reschedule your procedure with an additional prep in order to visualize the entire gastrointestinal tract clearly.

What if I have polyps?

If the gastrointestinal specialist who is performing your procedure identifies or suspects an abnormality, a small portion of the tissue may be removed (biopsy) or the lining may be brushed for cells. Small growths (polyps) may also be removed using a snare (a thin wire device that looks like a small lasso) and cautery. Polyps vary in size from the size of small dots to several inches. Any tissue samples removed from your digestive tract are sent to the laboratory for analysis. It takes approximately 7 to 10 working days for the results to reach your provider. The provider's office will then notify you by mail or telephone about your results and any follow-up care that may be needed.

Will I have pain?

There are no painful sensations when biopsies are taken or polyps removed. You may experience a sensation of fullness, temporary bloating in your abdomen or mild abdominal cramps from the air used during your procedure. It is necessary to use some air to expand the bowel for the provider to see the bowel lining. The provider will take out most of the air at the end of your procedure; however, you can pass the air at any time during and after the procedure. We will start an intravenous line using a very small flexible catheter to give you fluids and medications for sedation and/or pain during your procedure. Giving medications through the intravenous catheter works very quickly to help you relax and may cause you to feel sleepy during your examination. We will work with you to manage the optimal level of sedation you prefer. Your comfort is very important to us and we will ask you frequently about your comfort level while you are here.

Principle risks and complications of colonoscopy

Colonoscopy is considered a very low risk procedure. Although complications are infrequent and uncommon, all of the following side effects or complications are possible

Be sure to ask your provider if you have any unanswered questions about your procedure.

- Medications: The sedation medications used are very well-tolerated by most people. Side effects and reactions are infrequent. Like all medications, sedative medications used during the procedure can cause allergic reactions in some individuals. Sedation may also slow down your breathing, which is treated with oxygen. If needed, we can administer medications to counteract the sedatives. The most common side effect of sedation medications are nausea and vomiting, which is treated with intravenous fluids and medications. Reactions to medications may require additional observation before you can be discharged to home. Although you may feel quite awake when you leave the center, the sedation medications can cause drowsiness and decreased coordination for several hours. The effects of the medications usually subside within 24 hours. Though infrequent, medications may cause some irritation and the intravenous site may be tender for 24-48 hours.
- Perforation: Passage of the colonoscope can result in an injury to the wall of the digestive tract with possible leakage into the body cavity. This complication is extremely rare when performed by gastrointestinal specialist. If a perforation does occur, it is usually related to existing trauma or weakened mucosal walls in the intestinal tract such as from the effects of radiation therapy. Treating this type of injury may include observation in the hospital and sometimes results in surgery to drain the abdominal cavity and close the leak.
- Bleeding: If bleeding occurs it is usually a complication biopsy or removing a polyp. Treatment for bleeding is usually managed during the examination with cautery, placing a tiny metal clip on the bleeding site, or injection of a medication directly into the bleeding area.
 - We may advise that you not take any blood thinning medications, aspirin or aspirin-like products for one week after having biopsies or a polyp removed to prevent bleeding while the biopsy/polyp site heal. This will be written on your discharge instructions. Although extremely rare, severe bleeding may require careful observation and admission to the hospital, possible blood transfusions at the hospital and/or possible surgery.
- Infection: The risks of infection following a colonoscopy are extremely low when national standards and manufacturer's guidelines are followed.

Alternatives to colonoscopy

Colonoscopy is considered a safe and effective way of examining your lower digestive tract, however, there is a rare occurrence of polyps being missed during the examination and/or misdiagnosis or failure to diagnosis. Not all lower gastrointestinal conditions can be diagnosed and/or treated with colonoscopy. The gastrointestinal specialist may recommend other tests or treatments after your procedure.

GI Associates of New Hampshire

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Concord, NH 03301

Phone: (603)228-1763

Fax: (603)227-7539

Patient's Responsibility Prior to Procedure

We recommend that you contact your insurance company to determine whether you are covered for your procedure. On the back of your insurance card, look for the Customer Service telephone number you should use. Please call to confirm that the procedure is covered and to understand what, if any, out-of-pocket expenses for which you may be held responsible.

In addition to your provider bill and the hospital or facility bill, you may receive separate bills from pathology, radiology, laboratory and anesthesia depending on the procedure.

If you have any questions regarding the insurance coverage of your procedure, please call the following numbers depending upon your provider and place of procedure.

- Concord Endoscopy Center – (603) 227-7788
- Concord Hospital – (603) 227-7788
- Concord Hospital Laconia – (603) 527-2990
- Dartmouth-Hitchcock – (603) 629-1726

If you do not have health insurance, you may qualify for Financial Assistance or you may be able to set up a payment plan. Please call the following numbers depending on your provider and place of procedure.

- Concord Endoscopy Center – (603) 227-7101 ask for Financial Counseling
- Concord Hospital – (603) 227-7101 ask for Financial Counseling
- Concord Hospital Laconia – (603) 527-7171 ask for the Financial Assistance Department
- Dartmouth-Hitchcock – (603) 229-5080 ask for Financial Assistance

Be sure to ask your insurance company the following questions:

- What are my policy benefits for this procedure?
- What is my deductible and co-insurance?
- What portion of the charges will I be responsible to pay?
- If your procedure is a colonoscopy, what is the difference between a screening and diagnostic colonoscopy and how does that affect how my insurance covers costs?
- Which lab facilities am I allowed to have specimens sent to?