



About Your Screening Colonoscopy at WakeMed

Your provider referred you to WakeMed Gastroenterology for a screening colonoscopy. We look forward to caring for you. Please read the following information about your upcoming procedure.

What is a screening colonoscopy?

A screening colonoscopy is a preventive test to make sure your colon is healthy. Screening colonoscopies are recommended for adults beginning at age 45. Colon cancer is a common, deadly cancer, but, if it is caught early, it is usually treatable. That's why screening colonoscopies are so important. A screening colonoscopy is for people who have:

- No lower gastrointestinal signs or symptoms of colon cancer
- No polyps or masses found during a previous colonoscopy
- No family history of polyps or colon cancer
- No diverticulosis

If no polyps or other issues are found during your screening colonoscopy and you meet the above criteria, you will not need another one for 10 years.

If polyps or other issues (ex. rectal bleeding, anemia, other symptoms) are present, you will likely have a diagnostic colonoscopy.

Scheduling process

Your health care provider referred you to us for your screening colonoscopy. We will contact you to schedule your colonoscopy. You do not need to contact our office.

Timeframe

While screening colonoscopies are important, they are non-emergent and are not usually scheduled immediately. We will do our best to get you in as soon as we can. Please note that it can be several weeks or longer based on schedule availability. If you feel you need an appointment sooner rather than later, please contact your referring provider to have them re-submit a referral marked "urgent". Your provider will also need to submit a reason for the scheduling change. If the reason is because you have developed symptoms, such as rectal bleeding, constipation, anemia or other issues, you will likely need a diagnostic colonoscopy rather than a screening colonoscopy.

Cost

Please contact your health insurance provider before your procedure to determine the criteria for approval/coverage of any procedures because this can affect your out-of-pocket costs such as deductibles or co-insurance. Many insurances will cover screening colonoscopies, while diagnostic colonoscopies may be subject to your deductible and/or co-insurance. You can also call the WakeMed Cost Estimation Line -- 919-350-7808 -- for help with questions about insurance coverage for colonoscopies.

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Other Useful Information

Adult driver

Because you will have anesthesia, you will need someone 18 years or older to accompany you to the procedure, sign you out, drive you home, and be responsible for your aftercare. You will not be allowed to drive.

Our locations

We perform colonoscopies in the Endoscopy suites at three locations:

- WakeMed Cary Hospital -- 1900 Kildaire Farm Rd. Cary, NC 27518
- WakeMed North Hospital --10000 Falls of Neuse Rd. Raleigh, NC 27614
- WakeMed Raleigh Campus -- 3024 New Bern Ave. Raleigh, NC 27610

Arrival & procedure times

You will need to arrive 1.5 hours prior to your scheduled procedure time. The procedure typically takes 30 to 45 minutes and then you will have recovery time. The entire process takes approximately three hours.

When our office initially schedules your colonoscopy, the time we give you will be approximate. Your arrival time and procedure time may change based on the Endoscopy suite's schedule. You will be contacted if there is a change.

Bowel prep instructions

You will need to prepare (prep) your bowel for your colonoscopy. Once you are scheduled, we will send you the bowel prep instructions through your MyChart account or the mail. When we schedule you, we will also send a prescription for your bowel prep kit to your pharmacy.

Your prescription for your bowel prep is valid for one year. If you wait more than 10 days to pick up your prep kit from the pharmacy, the pharmacy may say they no longer have it. This is not necessarily the case. They have your prescription on file and can look it up for you. You can request they re-pull the prescription for pick up. We are happy to help if needed.

Bowel preps used: Golytely, Sutab, Suprep, Clenpiq, Miralax and Gatorade