

DATE: _____

ARRIVE: _____

WHERE: Park under the eight story Silver Building in the Silver Parking Garage. Take the elevator to the first floor (lobby level). Follow the signs to the Green Elevators. You will check in at the large Central Registration Sign.

Colonoscopy

- **What is a colonoscopy?**

A colonoscopy is a special test that allows your physician to exam your entire large intestine for any abnormal growths, such as polyps or cancer.

- **Who should have a colonoscopy?**

Your physician will recommend that you have a colonoscopy if you experience:

- A Change in bowel habits
- Rectal bleeding
- Unexplained abdominal pain
- Inflammatory bowel disease (Colitis)
- Screening

- **What needs to be done before the test?**

In order your physician to see-the entire colon, it is necessary to prepare your bowel. When you call to confirm you appointment, you will be given laxative and dietary instructions.

- **What happen during the colonoscopy?**

After your arrival at the Out-patient Department, you will be admitted by a nurse seen by your doctor and any questions you may have will be answered. The examination will be carried out in a specially equipped room. During colonoscopy, your vital signs are closely monitored. Your doctor will give you sedation to help you relax.

During the colonoscopy, your doctor will look through a video colonoscope to see the lining of the bowel. If an abnormal area is found, it is possible to obtain a small biopsy or representative specimen of that area. Also, polyps or growths may be removed during colonoscopy.

The exam usually takes less than 1/2 hour. However, to allow time for the procedure and for the sedation to wear off, you should allow two to three hours for your stay. Please plan to have someone drive you home, as you must not drive after having sedation.

- **Are there any special risks with the colonoscopy?**

As with any procedure, there are some possible associated risks. The risks with colonoscopy are small, but there is a very slight chance of perforation of the bowel or bleeding complication of biopsy or polyp removal. In the event of this happening, possible hospitalization for observation, blood transfusions and/or surgery may be required to correct the problem. There could be a drug reaction with a change in blood pressure, pulse or breathing rate and/or inflammation of the vein at the IV site. These complications are rare. Your physician will discuss any questions or concerns you may have about the procedure.