



Information for Patients

What is colonoscopy?

A colonoscopy is a procedure in which a doctor uses a [colonoscope](#) or scope, to look inside your [rectum](#) and [colon](#). Colonoscopy can show irritated and swollen tissue, [ulcers](#), [polyps](#), and [cancer](#).

Your doctor will talk to you about getting a colonoscopy to screen you for colon cancer.

How to schedule a colonoscopy:

Call your insurance provider to find out **which places are covered by your insurance**. You can usually find the number to call by looking on the **back of your insurance card**.

Although insurances do cover colon cancer screening, not all insurances are taken at every hospital.

Once you and your doctor decide on a location, **call to schedule an appointment**. Make sure your doctor provides you with a written prescription and instructions on how to prepare for the colonoscopy.

Some things to keep in mind

- 1) Your bowels need to be completely clear of stool in order for the doctors to take a good look at the colon. This is why you will be given medication and something to drink the day before so you can empty your bowels.
- 2) Although getting a colonoscopy is a routine procedure, it does require that you get sedation to help with the test procedure. This is NOT general anesthesia but it will make you drowsy. As a result, you will need someone to take you to the test and pick you up from the test. Most people find that they need to rest the full day after the colonoscopy.





Some Chicago Hospitals Where you can get a colonoscopy

University of Illinois 1740 W Taylor St, Suite 2600	312-996-7598
Northwestern: Digestive Health Center 259 E Erie St, 16 th Floor	312-926-0628
University of Chicago: 5758 S Maryland Ave	772-702-6140
Rush: 1725 W Harrison St, Suite 207	312-942-5861
Mercy 2525 S Michigan Ave	312-567-2273

Figure 2
The colon

The colon is part of the large intestine. It is almost 5 feet long. It has four sections—the ascending, transverse, descending, and sigmoid colon. Its wall has four main layers—the mucosa, submucosa, muscularis propria, and serosa or adventitia.

