Colonoscopy Prep Instructions – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

DON'T FORGET TO PURCHSE

12 MAXIMUM STRENGTH SENNOSIDES

LAXATIVE PILLS AT YOUR PHARMACY

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO CAREFULLY FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS.

A COMPLETE COLONOSCOPY CANNOT BE PERFORMED ON AN UNCLEAN COLON!

5 DAYS PRIOR TO YOUR EXAM:

- Ideally, anti-clotting medications are stopped 5 days prior to your colonoscopy to reduce the risk of bleeding during or after your procedure. If you take anti-clotting medications such as **Coumadin**, **Plavix**, **Pradaxa**, **Effient**, **Brilinta**, **or Xarelto**, then please discuss these medications with the prescribing physician (i.e. cardiologist, neurologist, or primary care provider). You are on these medications for an important clinical reason (i.e. heart disease, cardiac stent, atrial fibrillation, stroke, mechanical heart valve, history of blood clots). **Please let us know if you are not allowed to stop these medications** or if you are advised to use *Lovenox* or *Heparin* prior to your colonoscopy.
- If you have diabetes, your primary care provider will advise you how to manage your medications prior to the colonoscopy (i.e. insulin).

3 DAYS PRIOR TO YOUR EXAM:

• Avoid nuts, seeds, whole wheat bread, beans, corn, raw vegetables or fruits with seeds or skin, as they may adversely influence the quality of your exam.

2 DAYS PRIOR TO YOUR EXAM:

- You may eat a regular dinner, but stop eating solid foods after 7:00 pm.
- You may continue to drink clear liquids. This means liquids you can see through such as apple juice, water, Sprite, Jell–O, Coffee (no creamer), tea, clear chicken or beef broth, clear Gatorade/Powerade, or Crystal Light. No milk or pulp products: Avoid anything with red dye.

1 DAY PRIOR TO YOUR EXAM:

- Restrict your diet to clear liquids. No solid food until after the procedure. Stay hydrated!
- At 1:00 p.m. take 6 tablets of Ex-Lax or Equate maximum strength Sennosides laxative pills (25 mg tablet).
- If you have a *morning procedure* then take another 6 tablets of Ex-Lax or Equate **maximum** strength Sennosides laxative pills (25 mg tablet) at **9:00 pm**. If you have an *afternoon procedure* then take another 6 tablets of Ex-Lax or Equate **maximum** strength Sennosides laxative pills (25 mg tablet) at **8:00 am** the next morning.
- Make a conscious effort to drink plenty of clear liquids before, during, and after taking your prep. You may drink water throughout the night and up to 3 hours prior to your procedure to stay hydrated.

THE DAY OF YOUR EXAM:

- Remember not to have any food until after your procedure!
- As stated above if you have an afternoon procedure then take another 6 tablets of Ex-Lax or Equate maximum strength Sennosides laxative pills (25 mg tablet) at 8:00 am. Yet if you have a morning procedure then you should have already taken another 6 tablets of Ex-Lax or Equate maximum strength Sennosides laxative pills (25 mg tablet) at 9:00 pm the night prior.
- If you have diabetes, test your blood sugar before coming in for your exam and bring the reading with you. If you take oral medications for your diabetes, don't take them the morning of your procedure *unless otherwise instructed by your doctor*. If you take insulin, take only ½ of your usual morning dose and bring the insulin with you to the procedure.
- You may have only clear liquids up until **3 hours** prior to your procedure start time (2 hours before your endoscopy-lab arrival time). We must insist on this "nothing by mouth" time for patient safety. Do not have anything by mouth after this point, as your stomach must be completely empty at the time of the procedure.
- You may take your usual medications (i.e. for blood pressure). Any medications taken the day of your procedure may be taken with a small sip of water, AT LEAST 2 HOURS PRIOR TO YOUR ARRIVAL TIME.
- You may apply zinc oxide or petroleum jelly to anal area to prevent irritation. Baby Wipes or Medicated Tucks may be considered.

OTHER INFORMATION:

- You must have someone available to drive you home after your colonoscopy. If you are planning to take a taxi home, then a friend or family member must accompany you. Plan on spending 2–3 hours at the facility.
- You may receive up to 4 separate bills: 1-facility, 2-physician, 3-pathology, 4-anesthesia
- Wear comfortable clothing. Bring your glasses, hearing aids, insurance cards and completed information forms, if applicable. Avoid bringing valuables. We will expect payment of co-pays, co-insurance and deductibles at the time of service.
- If you must cancel or reschedule your procedure, then you must give notice 2 full business day in advance. Failure to do so will result in a \$100 cancellation fee.
- Additional information is available on our website: www.utahgastro.com.

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