MAGRUDER MEDICAL GROUP

# UNDERSTANDING COLONOSCOPY: SCREENING VS. DIAGNOSTIC VS. SURVEILLANCE

## SCREENING COLONOSCOPY

- Is a preventative measure that starts at age 45 if you are average risk for colon cancer. Average risk means that you do not have a first- degree relative (father, mother, child, siblings) with a personal history of colon cancer.
- Screening is done every 10 years if initial exam is normal and patient is average risk.
- High risk: immediate family history of colon cancer can start screening as early as age 40

## DIAGNOSTIC COLONOSCOPY

- Is recommended for patients with signs or symptoms consistent with colorectal cancer or underlying conditions. Symptoms include the following:
  - Bowel changes (diarrhea, constipation, incomplete emptying of bowel)
  - Blood in stool (bright red or dark)
  - Abdominal pain (aches or cramp that do not go away)
  - Weight loss ( unexplained)
  - Hemorrhoids
  - Other symptoms ( frequent gas pains, bloating, abdominal fullness, anemia)

## SURVEILLANCE COLONOSCOPY (Not a screening)

- Is recommended for patients that have had polyps removed in the past or have been treated for colorectal cancer, Ulcerative colitis, or Crohn's disease. These warrant a colonoscopy to be done more frequently than every 10 years.

## PAYING FOR YOUR COLONOSOPY

***IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS THE PATIENT TO CONTACT YOUR INSURANCE PLAN TO SEE WHAT IS COVERED. INSURANCE MAY ASK FOR THE FOLLOWING CPT CODES TO BE ABLE TO CHECK YOUR PLAN***

- 45378- COLONOSCOPY DIAGNOSTIC/SCREENING/SURVEILLANCE
- 45330- FLEXIBLE SIGMOIDOSCOPY
- G0121- MEDICARE SCREENING
- G0105- MEDICARE HIGH RISK PATIENT

| SCREENING COLONOSCOPY | DIAGNOSTIC/SURVEILLANCE COLONOSCOPY |
|---|---|
| May be covered at 100%<br><br>**IF:**<br>-You are 45 years or older<br>-No polyps are removed during the procedure<br>-Procedure is done every 10 years and remains normal and patient remains average risk | MAY NOT be covered at 100%<br><br>**WHEN:**<br>-Polyps are found and removed during a screening or Surveillance Colonoscopy<br>-Procedure is required to be done more frequently than every 10 years |

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