

**FOLLOWING THE EXAMINATION**

- Further tests may be requested by the doctor doing your test. These may be completed on the same day of your examination or a future appointment date may be given
- If you stay awake for the test you may go home as soon as follow up instructions have been arranged.
- If you have been sedated you will be observed in the recovery area until the effects have worn off, and the I-V line has been removed from your arm and a snack given.
- If you have **received sedation** you **must be collected on discharge** as you are **not** Allowed to drive or travel home unaccompanied, operate machinery, sign legal documents or drink alcohol for 24 hours.

**Contact Details for endoscopy unit:  
If you require further information, or if for any reason you cannot attend for your appointment, please contact us.  
Monday-Friday 08.00-17.00.  
01- 6466415 (secretary).  
01-6466413 (nurse’s station).**

Developed by: Endoscopy Unit  
Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.  
(Acknowledge Dr G. Doherty SVUH).  
(Revised May 2019  
Review date: May 2020).

**Consent form**.....

**Guardian of**.....

Name:	.....
HCRN.....	.....
Address	.....
Endoscopist.....	.....

I/We have **read** the information on this leaflet and understand the procedure that will be performed and that I/We will have the opportunity to ask questions before the procedure. I understand the risks and benefits of the procedure. I understand that sedation may be required and that any other procedure found to be necessary will be performed. I understand the transfusion of blood/blood products may, rarely, be necessary and I agree to receiving these. I am aware that tissue samples may be taken of necessity and may be retained for future testing and/or education and research.

**I/We consent to the procedure of Full Colonoscopy.**

Signed.....  
(Patient)  
(Guardian).....

Date.....

**I have verified with the patient that he/she understands the information on this procedure.**

Signed.....

**Endoscopist)**

**Print Name**.....

**Date**.....



**COLONOSCOPY**

**CONNOLLY HOSPITAL  
BLANCHARDSTOWN**

**This information leaflet and Consent Form is intended for patients and their relatives.  
We hope that you will find it helpful.**

## CONSENT

You are asked to **sign the attached consent form** to show that you understand what is involved in the procedure, and **bring it with you** on the day of your test. The doctor performing the test will answer any questions you may have. **You may change your mind about having the test at any time before the procedure.**

## WHAT IS A COLONOSCOPY?

A colonoscopy is a visual examination of the lining of the bowel. A thin flexible tube is passed through the rectum into the colon.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO TO PREPARE FOR THIS TEST?

- In order to obtain a clear view, your colon (bowel) must be empty. To achieve this you will be given a laxative solution to drink, **starting the day before your test.**
- You will receive detailed instructions about this. On occasion, it **may** also be necessary to give you an enema on arrival in hospital.
- You will be provided with a gown; please bring a dressing gown and slippers with you.
- Please bring with you a list of your medications and if you have private medical insurance and a doctor's referral letter, please bring the details with you.

## SEDATION

The procedure is performed under sedation. Sedation is much safer than a general anaesthetic. You will be awake enough to talk with the staff during the test. Some patients may remember things about the test.

Every effort will be made to keep you comfortable during the procedure.

## SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

If you use a wheelchair or have a physical or any other disability please contact us in advance of your procedure so that we can ensure you receive appropriate supports.

## Medication (Tablets)

You should continue to take essential medication. If you are taking **ANTICOAGULANTS** (eg Warfarin/Plavix) you need to discuss this when the test is being organised. **Iron tablets should be stopped for one week prior to the examination.** If you have **diabetes** you should contact the endoscopy unit for advice before you attend for the test.

## RISKS

Colonoscopy is a safe test. There are some risks/complications which include (but are not limited to) perforation (tear), haemorrhage (bleeding) and reaction to medication. Complications may require urgent treatment including surgery (operation) and can carry a risk to life/health.

## BENEFITS

Colonoscopy is the best test to look at the lining of the bowel and allows the doctor to take a biopsy to look at any abnormality in more detail. If problems such as polyps are identified, these will be removed by the doctor if it is judged safe to do so. Removing polyps slightly increases the risk of the procedure, but reduces the risk of

developing bowel cancer in the future. Colonoscopy is not a perfect test, and very occasionally things such as polyps or cancer can be missed.

## PROCEDURE

- A nurse will be with you throughout the examination.
- If receiving sedation a plastic intravenous tube will be inserted in your arm and your pulse and oxygen levels will be monitored.
- You will be asked to lie on your left side.
- An examination of your rectum (back passage) will be carried out. The tube (camera) will be passed through the rectum into the lower part of the colon.
- The test usually takes between 15-60 minutes to complete. During the test, air will be put into your colon which allows the doctor a better view, and this is removed or passed at the end of the procedure.
- You may feel some cramps in your stomach and pressure from the tube during the test-this is normal and will soon pass.

## IMAGING/BIOPSIES

Photographs/videos of the intestine may be taken as part of your care, in order to diagnose or exclude particular diseases. These will be kept in your chart. Biopsies (tiny samples of tissue) may also be taken. These may be retained by the hospital for further testing and/or education and research in accordance with hospital procedures. Patient confidentiality will be maintained at all times.

