

## **Can Colorectal Polyps and Cancer Be Found Early?**

Screening is the process of looking for cancer or pre-cancer in patients who have no symptoms. Regular colon cancer screenings is one of the most powerful defenses against colorectal cancer.

Screening can often find colon cancer early, when it is still small and has not spread. It may be easier to treat at that time. Regular screening can help to prevent colon cancer. With screenings, your doctor may find and remove polyps before they have a chance to turn into cancer.

Colonoscopies are highly recommended to reduce your risk of colon cancer.

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In the past Medicare has covered screening colonoscopies at 100%, regardless if polyps are found or if a biopsy is performed.

Effective 5/18/2018 Medicare has changed their policies. Medicare, Medicare replacement, and many commercial policies will follow these same guidelines.

During a colonoscopy, if a biopsy is performed and or a polyp is removed your insurance will now refer to your procedure as a diagnostic colonoscopy. We will not be able to bill it as a screening colonoscopy because as biopsy was performed. This will make your procedure subject to your yearly deductible and coinsurance.

Our staff will do everything possible to inform you of your insurance details, as best we can. We want you to be aware of your financial obligations before your procedure.

We will ask that you sign a Medicare form "ABN" which states that you will understand your financial obligation should your Screening Colonoscopy turns into a Diagnostic Colonoscopy.

Our office policy is to provide patients with payment refunds within 30 days after receiving the "Explanation of Benefits" from your insurance company or after the overpayment has been brought to our attention.

Please feel free to ask our staff of more information regarding your screening coverage.

7/1/2018