

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



A Division of Physicians East

Isn't there a better way to cleanse the colon?

- There are many methods used by different doctors to cleanse the colon. Your doctor has chosen your prep because of your specific health history and because his/her experience tells him it works. Certain preparations can be dangerous if used by the wrong patient.

Can't I just drink clear liquids and not eat for a few days and be clean?

- No, the walls of the colon will still be dirty, and the examination may have to be rescheduled.

What happens if I start drinking the preparation laxative and I become nauseated or start vomiting?

- Slow down. If you're drinking the gallon of preparation, take a break from the prep solution and then try to drink 4 ounces every 15-20 minutes. It is more important that you drink the entire gallon than to do it in the time period given.

What happens if I drink the preparation and get no results?

- If you don't have frequent or progressively loose bowel movements within 3 hours of taking the preparation, you will likely need something to help it work properly. Please contact the physician's office as soon as possible if you suspect that you are having poor results.

What should the product of the prep look like?

- The laxative should produce a clear yellow or green liquid with possible sediment to it. The color should not be brown and there should be no solid material.

Why do I have to have someone drive me home?

- After the procedure is over, you may be sleepy, uncomfortable, nauseated, or simply not yourself. This is the effect of the medications used for the sedation and the procedure itself. Your reflexes will be slowed until the following day, and you might injure yourself or others if you try to operate machinery. For this reason, you are considered legally intoxicated. This facility will not perform a sedated procedure on a person with no ride home! If you choose to take public transportation, such as a cab, a responsible adult must still escort you, no exceptions.

Why am I not going to the hospital for this procedure?

- GI endoscopy is a very safe procedure (surgery) that is routinely performed on an outpatient basis. Because we are an Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) the cost of the procedure is much less than a hospital setting. Also, rather than going through the admission process at a hospital with many other patients, our facility offers a faster, more streamlined process. Finally, because we are not as large as a hospital you can call our office during normal business hours and always speak with a real person.

How long does it take?

- An upper endoscopy (EGD) takes about 10-20 minutes to perform. The colonoscopy takes a little longer, about 30-45 minutes. Recovery time is about 30 minutes. Please keep in mind the time needed for the admission process, which includes, but is not limited to, reading and signing all required paperwork. Plan on being at the facility for approximately 2 hours from the time you check in to the time you leave.

What should I bring the day of the procedure?

- Wear comfortable clothes that are easy to get on and off. Bring a warm pair of socks to wear during your procedure. Bring a list of your medications including over the counter and herbal medications with your dosage. Bring a list of allergies and any medical procedures you have ever had. You should also bring your insurance card(s), a driver's license or picture ID card for identification purposes. Applicable payment may be required on the date of service. The estimate you will owe can be confirmed through our Patient Services Advisor at (252)551-1317.

NOTE: You will receive **TWO** separate statements for this procedure. One for the doctor's fee, and one for the facility fee.

- The Physicians East, P.A. statement will reflect the physician's fee
- The Quadrangle Endoscopy Center statement will reflect the facility fee. (*The facility (QEC) is considered an outpatient surgery center by insurance companies*)

Quadrangle Endoscopy Center utilizes anesthesia services for the administration of IV Propofol for sedation during procedures. Depending on your insurance coverage/plan, patients receiving this type of sedation may receive a **third** statement from Anesthesia Care Services, PA. You may call 1-888-447-7220 or 1-336-884-4595, if you have questions about this bill.

- It is **your** responsibility to know your insurance benefits and provide accurate insurance information.
- We encourage you to call your insurance company to obtain your benefits for your upcoming procedure.

