

SCREENING COLONOSCOPY vs. DIAGNOSTIC COLONOSCOPY

If you are here today because you were sent by your physician for a “Screening Colonoscopy” or you have seen one of our providers and he/she recommends a colonoscopy, please read this form in its entirety. You need to be fully educated on the state and federal guidelines for reimbursement services.

The Medicare “Preventative Screening” initiative passed in January 2011 dictates that patients undergoing a “screening colonoscopy” will not be held to their coinsurance or deductible responsibilities.

The definition of a “screening colonoscopy” per Medicare guidelines is as follows:

“A colonoscopy being performed on a patient who does not have any signs or symptoms in the lower GI anatomy PRIOR to the scheduled test.”

Any symptom such as change in bowel habits, diarrhea, constipation, rectal bleeding, anemia, etc. prior to the procedure and noted as a symptom by the physician in your medical record may change your benefit from a screening to a diagnostic colonoscopy.

Please Note: If you have had a colonoscopy within the last 10 years and the result indicated you had colon polyps, you are NOT eligible for a Preventative Screening Benefit. You have prior history of colon polyps. Your colonoscopy is now a “surveillance of the colon” and is considered diagnostic.

If you are under the age of 50 and are scheduled for a screening colonoscopy, you may not be eligible for Preventative Screening Benefits. **It is your responsibility to know your insurance policy. Please contact your insurance company with benefit questions prior to your procedure.**

Please be advised that if during the procedure your doctor finds a polyp or tissue that must be removed for pathological testing, these specimens are NOT covered by the Preventative Screening Benefit and will be applied towards your deductible or coinsurance.

Expect to receive different bills for your procedure which may include:

Physicians Services – Conway Physician Group
Anesthesia – Conway Anesthesia Associates
Pathology – Clinical Pathology Consultants
Hospital Fee – Conway Medical Center

Please check your insurance plan book or website to verify your coverage and if these groups are covered by your plan.