

Colonoscopy for Pediatrics

Your colonoscopy is on _____ (date).

Come to McMaster Children's Hospital and **check in at the Patient Registration** on the 2nd floor between the café and the yellow elevators at _____ (time).

If you need to change or cancel your appointment:

- call the 3E Clinic at 905-521-2100, ext 75013

If you have questions or concerns about the colonoscopy,

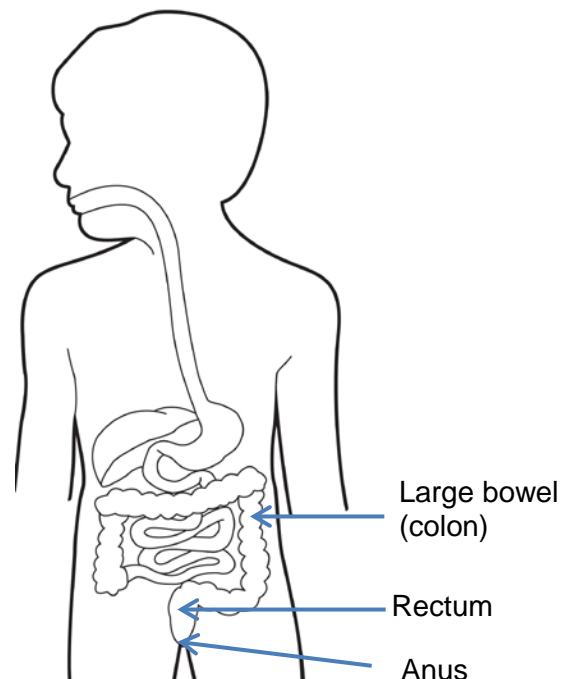
- call the pediatric GI nurse at 905-521-2100 ext. 73616 or 73072

What is a colonoscopy?

A colonoscopy is a procedure to look inside your large bowel, which is called the colon.

The doctor uses a long, thin, flexible tube with a camera and a light at the end. This is called a colonoscope.

The tube is put in your bottom (anus, bum) and gently guided into your rectum and large bowel. The doctor can also use the tube to take tiny pinches of the lining of your bowel for tests. This is called a biopsy.



How long does a colonoscopy take?

A colonoscopy takes about 45 minutes.

You may need to stay 30 minutes to 1 hour after it is over. Plan to be at the hospital about 1 to 3 hours from start to finish.

What should I do before coming to the hospital?

Pre-operative visit

Located at 690 Main Street West Hamilton, ON (Urgent Care Centre)

- You will have a “Pre-Op” appointment, before your colonoscopy. This is necessary to help you and the team prepare for your colonoscopy.
- At this visit, the anesthesia team will get to know you and your health history. You will discuss how you will be given sleep medicine on the day of your procedure. Usually, this involves the use of an intravenous line (IV).
- You will also be given instructions for taking your usual medications.
- For more information online please visit the following links www.gikids.org, www.movieji.com and/or <http://www.pico-salax.ca>

To prepare for an intravenous line, you may find it helpful to make a plan. Here are some ideas:

- Understand the steps involved.
- Would you like to watch or look away?
- Would you to count to three before inserting the needle or not count?
- Would you like to lay down or sit?
- Would you like to hold a hand or participate in a distraction activity?
- Would a “numbing cream” (topical anesthetic) be helpful for the needle? If so, please let your team know when you arrive.

Ask to speak with a Child Life Specialist in your referral clinic for more information that will help you before and during the procedure.

How to clean out the bowel in preparation for the colonoscopy:



- To look inside your bowel, it must be **completely empty**. This means you will have to clean out your bowel **the day before** the procedure. This is called a “**bowel prep**”.
- What you have to do to clean out your bowels depends on how old you are. You will have to stop eating and drinking fluids at a certain time before the procedure.
- The information sheet “[Pediatric bowel prep for colonoscopy](#)” will tell you exactly what to do.

What should I bring to the hospital:

- Bring a list of your medications to the hospital.
- Please bring something to do while you are waiting for your procedure, and something to have with you as you fall asleep (such as a blanket or stuffed animal).
- If you have diabetes you will need to have your blood sugar checked. If you have a glucometer, please bring it with you to the hospital. You may also want to bring your insulin pen.
- If you have an ostomy, bring your supplies with you.



Where do I go for my colonoscopy?

Your colonoscopy will be done at the McMaster Children's Hospital at Hamilton Health Sciences.

- **Check in at the Patient Registration** on the 2nd floor between the café and the yellow elevators
- Go to **4X Endoscopy Unit**, on the 4th floor, behind the yellow elevators.

The team caring for you includes:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurses • Gastroenterologist • Anesthesiologist and Anesthesia Assistant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Life Specialist • Volunteers • Health professionals in training and other learners. |
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What happens on the day of your colonoscopy?

- When you arrive, a Nurse and a Child Life Specialist will help you get ready for your procedure, following the plan made at your pre-op visit.
- You will change into a hospital gown for the procedure.
- The nurse will put an intravenous line (IV) into your arm or hand. The IV is used to give you fluids and medication.
- When it is time for your procedure, you will go to the procedure room with your parent or guardian and the Child Life Specialist. The procedure room has a bed on wheels with other machines around it. Each machine has a special job to keep you safe during the procedure.
- You will be asked to lay on the bed. Your parent or guardian can stand right beside you.

please turn over →

The Anesthesia Assistant will place:

- a blood pressure cuff on your arm to check your blood pressure
 - stickers on your chest to check your heart rate
 - a small sticker with a red light on your finger (called an oximeter) to show how much oxygen is in your blood
 - a thin, flexible tube just inside your nose to give you air and oxygen
- When it is time, the Anesthesiologist will put the sleep medication in your IV. This will make you feel tired. It is okay to close your eyes, count or do an activity with the Child Life Specialist.

Remember!

The sleep medication will help you fall fast asleep. You will not feel, see or hear anything during the procedure.

- When the procedure is finished you will wake up in another room and the nurse will get your parents to come and be with you.
- When the nurse feels you are ready, you will be able to go home.

What happens after the colonoscopy?

- You will be given an information sheet called "[Going home after your colonoscopy](#)". This tells you how to care for yourself at home.
- The sleep medication (anesthetic) may make you feel sleepy. This is normal. For the rest of the day, stay home from school or work.



For 24 hours after your colonoscopy:

- avoid all activities that require balance or coordination
- do not drive a vehicle
- do not drink any alcohol

If you have any questions after the procedure, please call the nurse or doctor from your referral clinic.