**What is this test called?**

**Colonoscopy**

**What type of test is this?**

A colonoscopy is a visual test done by a doctor. It uses a tube with a tiny camera to look for and remove polyps and cancer inside your colon and rectum.

**How do I prepare for this test?**

The day before the test, you have to follow a clear liquid diet. You will be given a prep (tablets and something to drink) to take the night before and the morning of the test. It will cause diarrhea (watery stool), so you need to stay near a toilet. This empties the colon so the doctor can have a clear look.

**Will it hurt?**

No. You will get medication through a vein in your arm (an IV). It puts you to sleep, so you don’t feel any discomfort.

**Will I have to take time off work?**

Yes. You will need to take 1 or 2 days off work. You will also need someone to drive you to the test and take you home after.

**How much of the colon does this test look at?**

A colonoscopy checks the entire colon and rectum.

**How often should this test be done?**

EVERY 10 YEARS*

* More often if polyps are found

**How much does it cost?**

Most insurance plans, including Medicare, cover this screening test. Check with your insurance company about your coverage.