

Atlanta Center for Gastroenterology, P.C.

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Screening or Diagnostic Colonoscopy? What is the difference?

It is important to understand the difference between a screening and diagnostic colonoscopy. It is very important that you talk to your insurance company on your benefits and their criteria, as this can have an effect on your out-of-pocket costs such as deductibles or co-insurance. Most insurance plans will cover screening colonoscopies, while diagnostic may be subject to your deductible and/or co-insurance.

Screening Colonoscopy Factors:

- No symptoms before the procedure
- No findings during the procedure (polyps, diverticulosis, etc.)
- No personal history of cancer or polyps
- No family history of cancer or polyps (some insurances consider this high risk)

Diagnostic Colonoscopy Factors:

- Symptoms before the procedure such as change in bowel habits, rectal bleeding, abdominal pain, etc.
- Findings during the procedure (polyps, cancer, diverticulosis, etc.)
- Personal history of cancer or polyps
- Family history of cancer or polyps (some insurances consider this high risk)



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The pointed noted above are to be used for informational purposes only, as insurance and benefits criteria vary by plan.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your insurance company to verify your benefits and “out-of-pocket” costs for screening vs. diagnostic/high risk colonoscopies.

