

## MIRALAX/POLYETHYLENE GLYCOL EXTENDED BOWEL PREP

To ensure the best possible results from your colonoscopy, please follow these specific instructions from your physician. A clean colon allows your care team to perform the procedure accurately. If your colon is not sufficiently clean, we may need to reschedule your appointment.

### Non-medical prep questions:

- Call Gifthealth at - 833-614-4438 or e-mail them at [Care@gifthealth.com](mailto:Care@gifthealth.com).
- If you don't use Gifthealth, call clinic numbers listed above.

### Medical questions:

- During business hours (7:30 am to 5pm), call clinic numbers listed above.
- During non-business hours (5 pm to 7:30 am) there is an on-call physician for urgent medical questions.

### DAYS BEFORE YOUR PROCEDURE

#### Special Notes:

- If you are taking **blood thinner** medication such as Coumadin or Plavix and haven't spoken to a WAGI nurse, please contact the clinic.
- If you are taking a **GLP-1 medication** (Ozempic, etc.), stop weekly doses at least 7 days before, or daily doses the day before, your procedure (unless instructed otherwise by our office). If you have concerns regarding this, please contact your primary care provider.
- If you have a **Pacemaker, an AICD, or any other implanted medical device (except the Inspire device)** and haven't spoken to a WAGI nurse, please contact the clinic.
- If you have diabetes and are taking insulin, consult your diabetes provider for the correct dosage to take on the day of your exam.

#### Driver Confirmation & Instructions:

Your driver should plan to be on-site for 1-2 hours. Drivers may briefly leave the premises with reception's approval. For procedures starting after 3 PM, drivers must remain in the waiting room. If you require a taxi, ride-share, or medical transport, please schedule your procedure no later than 2 PM.

#### 7+ days before your procedure

Purchase the following. **If you purchased the prep from Gifthealth, you do not need to purchase these items.**

- ☐ MiraLAX (Polyethylene Glycol 3350): Two 8.3 oz containers.
- ☐ Magnesium Citrate: One 10 oz bottle (if you have chronic kidney disease/failure **do not** purchase).
- ☐ Dulcolax (Bisacodyl): One box of 5 mg tablets. You will need 4 tablets for your prep.
- ☐ Gatorade/sports drink to mix with the MiraLAX: 54 oz-64 oz depending on bottle size.
- ☐ Items for the clear liquid diet (see page 2).
- ☐ Optional: Vaseline/Desitin and baby wipes (for skin irritation). Adult diapers (if concerned about leakage).

#### Starting 7 days before your procedure (continues until the day before your procedure)

- **STOP** using any iron and fiber supplements until after your procedure.
- Each morning, **drink** one dose (17 g) of MiraLAX mixed with 8 oz clear liquid.

#### Starting 3 days before your procedure (continues until the day before your procedure)

- **STOP** eating any raw fruits, raw vegetables, vegetables containing seeds, popcorn, nuts, and seeds.
- Continue taking the dose of MiraLAX each morning.

**See page 2 for instructions to follow the day before the procedure.**

## THE DAY BEFORE YOUR PROCEDURE

**Diet of clear liquids only. NO SOLID FOOD!**

**Do not use marijuana (THC products) or alcohol.**

**To prevent dehydration, drink additional clear liquids before and throughout your prep, even while consuming the prep solution.**

### CLEAR LIQUID DIET

#### Avoid:

- Milk, dairy, creamer
- Juices with pulp
- **RED or PURPLE** items
- Alcohol

#### Approved:

- Soda, black coffee, tea, water
- Clear juices (no pulp), fitness waters
- Popsicles
- Low sodium chicken, vegetable, and beef broth
- Gelatin (e.g., Jell-O)



#### Approximately 3 pm:

Take 2 Dulcolax 5 mg tablets with a glass of water.

#### Approximately 5 pm:

Pour between 54-64 oz of Gatorade/sports drink mix into a pitcher. Mix in the entire container of MiraLAX.

- These instructions may differ from those on the package. Please follow our instructions.
- Some patients find it easier to drink the prep chilled and through a straw.

#### Approximately 5 pm-7 pm:

- Drink an 8oz glass of the solution every 10-15 minutes until you have finished drinking **half** the mixture (27-32oz).
- Place the other half of the prep in the refrigerator for the next day.

#### Approximately 9 pm-10 pm:

Take 2 Dulcolax 5 mg tablets with a glass of water.

**Note:** Diarrhea typically starts within one hour of the first dose, but it may take up to six hours. If you **haven't had a bowel movement six hours after drinking the prep**, prepare and drink the Magnesium Citrate solution. If you have chronic kidney disease/failure, do not take magnesium citrate; instead, continue to drink clear liquids. If you experience irritation in the anal area, use baby wipes and apply Vaseline/Desitin after each bowel movement.

**See page 3 for instructions to follow the day of the procedure.**

## THE DAY OF YOUR PROCEDURE

**Diet of clear liquids only. NO SOLID FOOD!**

To prevent dehydration, drink additional clear liquids in addition to your prep solution up until 3 hours prior to your procedure. Do not use marijuana (THC products) or alcohol.

### 5-6 hours prior to your procedure:

- Begin drinking the second half of the prep solution. Drink the prep at the same rate as last night.
- If you drank all the prep but your stool is not clear, drink all the magnesium citrate solution now (if you haven't already).
- Continue drinking clear liquids until **3 hours prior** to your procedure.
- Take your regularly prescribed medications unless you were advised to stop. This includes blood pressure medication.

**3 hours prior to your procedure: Do not put anything in your mouth**, including gum, lozenges, candy, mints, or chewing tobacco.

### How will I know if I'm ready for the procedure?

- After drinking all your prep, your bowel movements should be all liquid yellow and clear like picture #4 or #5. You should be able to see through to the bottom of the toilet.
- If your bowel movements are solid or look like pictures #1, #2, or #3, you are not prepped and need to call our office during normal business hours to reschedule.



### Bring the following to your procedure:

- A responsible driver to take you home. **You will not be allowed to walk, take the bus, or drive home.**
- Insurance cards and photo ID.
- Your completed Patient Information Form (PIF) with your medications listed.
- Inhaler: if you use an inhaler, please bring it with you
- Dentures, hearing aids, glasses: Please bring storage cases if you wear these items, as they may need to be removed during your procedure.

For your safety, a **driver must accompany you** home. You cannot drive, operate machinery, or work until the next day. Your procedure will be **rescheduled if you arrive without a driver, unless previously arranged**. If you require a taxi, ride-share, or medical transport your procedure **must** be scheduled no later than 2 pm.

**Weapons are prohibited. Leave valuables at home; we are not liable for lost personal items.**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**If I eat high fiber foods 3 days before my procedure, do I need to reschedule?** You don't need to reschedule, but eating seeds or nuts may impact your prep and procedure. If you consumed a lot, please contact our office.

**What high-fiber foods should I avoid?** Raw fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, whole grain breads, beans, and lentils.

**What foods can I eat on a low-fiber diet?** White bread, white rice, pasta made from white flour, as well as chicken, fish, dairy, and eggs.

**Is there any alternate prep I can take?** The prep was assigned to you by your physician. If you have concerns about this prep, call the clinic during normal business hours for guidance.

**I am diabetic and my blood sugar will go too low if I do not eat any solid foods, what should I do?** Please drink liquids with sugar the day before your procedure to maintain your blood sugar.

**Can I drink coffee on a clear liquid diet?** Yes, you can drink black coffee if it does not contain dairy or dairy substitute.

**Can I drink alcohol on a liquid diet?** No, alcohol is not permitted during the liquid diet.

**Can I continue the liquid diet after starting the laxatives?** Yes, continue the liquid diet until three hours before the procedure.

**The prep is making me nauseous/vomiting. What should I do?** Reduce your drinking pace, chill the solution, and use a straw. Stop and call the clinic during business hours if vomiting continues or you cannot finish the prep.

**I am not having bowel movements, what should I do?** Diarrhea typically starts within one hour of the first dose, but it may take up to six hours. If you **haven't had a bowel movement six hours after drinking the prep**, prepare and drink the Magnesium Citrate solution (if no kidney disease/failure). If you do have kidney disease, drink clear liquids.

**I drank all my prep and I'm still not clear, what should I do?**

- If it is more than 3 hours before your procedure time, prepare and drink the magnesium citrate (if no kidney disease/failure). If you already drank the magnesium citrate and your prep is not clear, call the clinic.
- If it is less than 3 hours prior to your procedure and you are not clear, do not drink anything and call the clinic to reschedule.

**Do I have to drink all the solution to cleanse my colon?** Yes, you should follow all prep instructions carefully and drink the entire solution. The amount of prep needed for a successful cleansing is not determined by height or weight. A complete cleanse ensures the physician can perform a thorough exam. An incomplete cleanse will require your procedure to be rescheduled.

**Why do I have to wake up so early for the second dose?** The first dose clears the bulk of your stool. The second dose clears any remaining small pieces of stool. Polyps can be small, flat, and difficult to see if any debris is left in the colon.

**What is a clear stool?** A clear stool is completely transparent, possibly with a slight tint of yellow or brown, and contains no solid matter. You should be able to see the bottom of the toilet.

**Why can't I eat or drink anything 3 hours before my colonoscopy?** Our first concern is your health and safety. You will be given sedatives to help you relax during your colonoscopy. These medications impact your body's ability to hold food and liquid in your stomach. If you have anything in your stomach, there is a risk that food or liquid will travel up into your airway, move into your lungs, and cause an obstruction or an infection in your lungs. Your procedure will be re-scheduled if you do not follow these instructions.

**Can I wear perfume/cologne to my procedure?** No, we are a fragrance-free facility.

**Is it okay to drink alcohol or take my sedative after my procedure?** No, you should avoid alcohol, sedatives, and marijuana (THC products) for 12 hours after your procedure.