

## **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)

**The points 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.**