NOTICE TO COLONOSCOPY/ ENDOSCOPY PATIENTS

Thank you for selecting Eastside Endoscopy Center for your upcoming procedure. You are receiving this notice because our records indicate that your insurance may not cover all costs of your procedure. Your insurance may not cover deep sedation.

At Eastside Endoscopy Center, we are committed to provide you with the best experience possible while at our center. Your procedure will be performed to the highest technical standards. We were the first outpatient gastrointestinal endoscopy center in the State of Washington to be AAAHC certified, and from our most recent surveyor, it was noted that, “Every aspect of this center is a model of quality care delivery”. The physicians at our center collectively have over 100 years of experience and have performed over 150,000 gastrointestinal endoscopy procedures.

The procedure you are going to have is very accurate in diagnosing and treating gastrointestinal problems. While your test may be performed without any sedation, if you choose, most patients are provided intravenous sedation during their endoscopic procedure. This provides relaxation and comfort, and allows your test to be completed more easily.

For a number of years, “conscious sedation” was used at our center. With this, medications (usually fentanyl and versed) were administered intravenously by your physician. This produced a very light sedation where most patients would doze off slightly, but would be arousable. Although this anesthesia worked reasonably well, because of the light sedation, some patients would intermittently awaken and recall some of their test or experience abdominal cramping, and occasionally some patients suffered nausea and vomiting in recovery. Because of the duration of action of the medications, most patients remained somewhat sleepy and sedated for hours after completion of their test and were not able to have reasonable discussions with their physicians about test results and recommendations.

In 2010, after careful review, we changed to different anesthesia and began using propofol. This sedation is widely utilized elsewhere in the country for providing mild to moderate sedation during gastrointestinal and other medical procedures, and is increasingly being used in our area. The medication is administered by certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNA’s). This provides numerous benefits including:

- Sedation is very consistent. Patients generally experience very relaxing sleep throughout their entire procedure, have no discomfort whatsoever, and do not recall their test.

- Improved test results. Using CRNAs to administer propofol allows your physician to devote their full attention to you. The administration of propofol, compared to “conscious sedation”, has been linked to increased polyp detection during colonoscopies, and higher rates of the test being able to be completed fully.

- Improved satisfaction. Sedation with propofol is uniformly favored by patients (and physicians) compared to the “conscious sedation” used previously. In our own recent survey of over 200 patients who had procedures performed both with “conscious sedation” and with propofol, over 98% favored propofol. This is consistent with other studies.

- Safety. Propofol anesthesia is very short acting, so patients wake up almost immediately after their procedure, without nausea. Because the effects of propofol are so short, patients are coherent immediately after their test and are able to understand results and post-procedure recommendations when they speak to their physician prior to discharge.

Please note, the administration of anesthesia during your test, whether “conscious sedation” or propofol, is consistently covered by most third party insurance carriers. Your insurance will cover “conscious sedation,” but will not cover deep sedation for patients unless they are high risk for anesthesia because of significant underlying medical problems. If your insurance elects not to cover deep sedation for your procedure, you could have additional out-of-pocket costs. We encourage you to contact your insurance company to verify coverage and discuss this with the benefits department of your employer.

See accompanying Patient Waiver of Non-Covered Services Form.

You may receive an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) from your insurance stating that it does not cover payment for the anesthesia portion of your procedure. If you do not agree with your EOB, you may file an appeal. If you are not satisfied with your insurance company’s decision on your appeal, you may request review by an independent review organization not connected with your insurance.

Please refer to the links on the Sedation Options form to review your insurance company’s policy on Monitored Anesthesia Care.