



**Mountain West Gastroenterology, P.C.
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Gastroenterology – Liver Diseases – Diagnostic and Therapeutic Endoscopy

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**PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET
FLEXIBLE SIGMOIDOSCOPY (Flex Sig)**

You are scheduled to undergo an endoscopic examination (Flex Sig) of the lower part of your colon or large bowel. This is done by looking at the lining of the lower 12-24 inches of the colon with a lighted tube put into your rectum.

In order to examine the end of the colon completely, **you will have to follow the Flex Sig preparation steps on a separate handout supplied to you.**

On the morning of the test, you will have your blood pressure and pulse checked. You will then be asked to lie down on your side of the examination table. The doctor will examine the end part of your colon (large bowel) with the endoscope. The examination takes between 2-12 minutes. If abnormalities are seen, biopsies (small pinches of tissue) can be taken through the tube. This will be painless, as there are no nerves in the colon. The biopsies are then sent to the laboratory for examination by microscope. The scope is removed after the exam is complete.

Because no sedation is used for this examination, you may leave immediately after the exam. Before you leave, a check out sheet will be given to you explaining the results of the test.

Possible complications from this test include abdominal pain or cramping, mild bleeding from the rectum and soreness. In addition, more serious complications can occur. These include, but are not limited to, tears or perforation (making a hole) of the colon which occurs in less than 1/1,000 examination, and hospitalization, transfusion or surgery may be necessary.

Any questions you have about this examination or its possible complications should be discussed with the doctor **before the exam begins.**

Do you have a mechanical heart valve or history of endocarditis (heart infection)?

Yes No

Patient's Signature _____ Date _____, 2010