



East Tennessee Gastroenterology PLLC

Patient information

First Name: Middle: Last Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip Code:

Mailing Address (if different than above):

Home Phone: Mobile Phone: Work Phone:

Email:

Date of Birth: Social Security Number: Sex: Male Female

Marital Status: Single Married Widowed Divorced Separated

Employer: Occupation:

Emergency Contact: Relationship:

Phone:

Primary Care Physician:

Additional Physicians:

Primary Insurance: Secondary Insurance:

Consent to Import Medication History: I consent to obtaining a history of my prescription medications purchased at pharmacies. Yes No

Consent to Share Data: I consent to having my medical and demographic information shared with other physicians and health care entities if needed. Yes No

Reminder Preference: I would like to receive preventative care and follow up care reminders. Yes No

Patient/Guardian Signature

Date

Privacy Options: In some cases, it is not possible to reach our patients during working hours to discuss test results, future appointments, and account balances. Your response to the questions below will give us guidance when we cannot contact you personally.

George A. Samuel, D.O.

1. We may leave a message, either on your answering machine or with the person answering your phone regarding appointments? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No
2. May we speak with other people regarding your insurance, billing questions or financial arrangements? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_No If yes, to whom may we speak? \_\_\_\_\_
3. May we speak with other people regarding test results or other medical information? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_NO If yes, to whom may we speak? \_\_\_\_\_

My signature indicates that I have received the "Notice of Privacy Policies" for East Tennessee Gastroenterology, PLLC.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\*\*\*\*\*

**Authorizations:** Below, you will find several specific authorizations or consents that we are required to have. Some of these are required by law, and others by Medicare or your insurance company, so that we can properly process your claims for payment. If you do not understand any part of this, please ask us and we will try to explain it to you more clearly.

You agree to permit your protected health information to be used and disclosed for purposes of treatment, payment and health care operations. For more details about these uses and disclosures, please see our Privacy Notice.

We reserve the right to change our privacy policies described in the Privacy Notice. You may call us to receive an updated Notice.

You have the right to request that we restrict how your protected health information is used or disclosed to carry out treatment, payment or health care operations. We are not required to agree with this request, but if we do, we are bound by it.

You have the right to revoke your consent in writing. A revocation, however, will not apply to the extent we have taken action in reliance upon the use or disclosure of your information.

I understand that charges for professional services not covered by insurance are due and payable at each visit. I also understand that my health insurance is a contract between myself and my insurance carrier, and not between my insurance carrier and the physician, and I hereby assume full responsibility for all charges incurred for professional services rendered by the physicians of East Tennessee Gastroenterology, PLLC, unless the services are deemed "paid in full" as a result of a contractual agreement between East Tennessee Gastroenterology, PLLC and my insurer. If my insurance company has not paid their portion within 60 days of being properly billed, I understand that the balance will become due and payable from me.

**\*\*\*\*\*WE CHARGE A \$25.00 NO SHOW FEE FOR MISSED OFFICE VISITS NOT CANCELLED IN ADVANCED. WE CHARGE A \$100.00 FEE FOR OFFICE PROCEDURES THAT ARE NOT CANCELLED BY 12:00PM ON THE THURSDAY PRIOR TO THE MONDAY PROCEDURE. WE CHARGE \$100.00 FOR OFFICE PROCEDURES NOT CANCELLED 48HRS IN ADVANCE IF SCHEDULED ON WEDNESDAY.**

In the case of default of payment I promise to pay any legal interest on the balance due, together with any collection agency costs and reasonable attorney fees incurred to effect collection on this account.

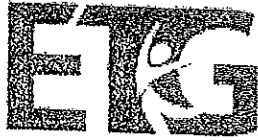
I authorize any holder of medical or other information about me to release to the Social Security Administration and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CCHS) or its intermediaries or carrier any information needed for this or a related Medicare claim. I permit a copy of this authorization to be used in place of the original, and request payment of medical insurance benefits either to myself or to the party who accepts assignment. Regulations pertaining to Medicare assignment of benefits apply.

I request that payment of authorized insurance benefits to be made either to me or on my behalf to any services furnished me by this physician or supplier. I authorize any holder of medical information about me to release to the insurance company and its agents any information needed to determine these benefits or the benefits payable for related services. I understand I am financially responsible to said physician for any balance not covered by my insurance carrier.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient/Guarantor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





# East Tennessee Gastroenterology

PLLC

2404 Chambliss Ave.  
 Cleveland, TN 37311  
 Phone: 423.339.2000  
 Fax: 423.339.2043

## Patient Interview Form

### Patient Information

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

**Email**  
 Personal: \_\_\_\_\_

### Race

Select one or more

- White     
  Black or African American     
  Asian     
  American Indian or Alaska Native     
  Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander  
 Unknown     
  Patient declines to specify     
  Prohibited by state law

### Ethnicity

- Hispanic or Latino     
  Not Hispanic or Latino     
  Patient declines to specify     
  Prohibited by state law

### Sex

- Male     
  Female     
  Other

### Allergies

- Patient has no known allergies     
  Patient has no known drug allergies

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Current Medications

- None

Name	Dose	How taken?

## Immunizations

- None
- Hep A, adult       Hep B, adult       Hep C       Pneumonia       Flu
- When: \_\_\_\_\_      When: \_\_\_\_\_      When: \_\_\_\_\_      When: \_\_\_\_\_      When: \_\_\_\_\_

## Diagnostic Studies/Tests

- None
- Colonoscopy       EGD       Abdominal U/S       CT Scan       MRI of the abdomen
- When: \_\_\_\_\_      When: \_\_\_\_\_      When: \_\_\_\_\_      When: \_\_\_\_\_      When: \_\_\_\_\_
- HIDA Scan
- When: \_\_\_\_\_

## Past or Present Medical Conditions

- None
- |                     |   |  |  |   |
|---------------------|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Esophagus</b>    | <input type="radio"/> Acid Reflux       | <input type="radio"/> Narrowing of Esophagus   | <input type="radio"/> Achalasia                  | <input type="radio"/> Esophageal Cancer |
| <b>Stomach</b>      | <input type="radio"/> Gastric ulcers    | <input type="radio"/> H pylori                 | <input type="radio"/> Stomach Cancer             | <input type="radio"/> Gastroparesis     |
| <b>Colon</b>        | <input type="radio"/> Colon Polyps      | <input type="radio"/> Diverticulitis           | <input type="radio"/> Ulcerative colitis         | <input type="radio"/> Crohns            |
|                     | <input type="radio"/> Colon Cancer      |  |  |   |
| <b>Rectum</b>       | <input type="radio"/> Hemorrhoids       | <input type="radio"/> Fistulas                 | <input type="radio"/> Rectal Cancer              |   |
| <b>Liver</b>        | <input type="radio"/> Hepatitis A/ B/ C | <input type="radio"/> Cirrhosis                | <input type="radio"/> Abnormal Liver blood tests |   |
| <b>Gallbladder</b>  | <input type="radio"/> Gallstones        | <input type="radio"/> gallbladder disease      | <input type="radio"/> biliary cancer             |   |
| <b>Pancreas</b>     | <input type="radio"/> Pancreatitis      | <input type="radio"/> pancreatic cysts         | <input type="radio"/> Pancreatic Cancer          |   |
| <b>Other</b>        | <input type="radio"/> Cellac Disease    | <input type="radio"/> Irritable bowel syndrome | <input type="radio"/> Cdificile infection        |   |
| <b>Other Non GI</b> | <input type="radio"/> Diabetes          | <input type="radio"/> High Blood Pressure      | <input type="radio"/> Heart conditions           | Other: _____                            |
|                     | Other: _____                            | Other: _____                                   | Other: _____                                     | Other: _____                            |

## Previous Procedures

- None
- |   |                                 |                                     |  |                                    |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Gallbladder       | <input type="radio"/> Appendix  | <input type="radio"/> Colon Surgery | <input type="radio"/> Gastric/esophageal Surgery | <input type="radio"/> Hysterectomy |
| <input type="radio"/> Cardiac Surgeries | <input type="radio"/> C-Section | <input type="radio"/> Mastectomy    | <input type="radio"/> Hemorrhoidectomy           | Other: _____                       |

# Social History

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children: \_\_\_\_\_

### Marital Status

- Single
- Married
- Divorced
- Separated
- Widowed
- Civil Union

### Alcohol

- None
- Daily
- Weekly
- Occasionally

### Caffeine

- None
- Daily
- Weekly
- Occasionally

### Tobacco

#### Smoking Status

- Cigarettes
- Chewing Tobacco
- Current every day smoker
- Current some day smoker
- Former smoker
- Never smoker
- Smoker, current status unknown
- Light tobacco smoker
- Heavy tobacco smoker
- Unknown if ever smoked

### Exercise

- None
- Yes

### Drug Use

- None
- Yes

## Family Medical History

No knowledge of family history

- No family history of
- Colon cancer
  - Crohn's Disease
  - Colon Polyps
  - Ulcerative Colitis

Mother  
 Father  
 Sister  
 Brother  
 Daughter  
 Son

### Diagnoses

Colon cancer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Colon polyps	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Crohn's disease	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ulcerative colitis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

# Review Of Systems

<b>Allergic/Immunologic</b> <input type="radio"/> None allergies hay fever frequent colds or bronchitis exposure to HIV (AIDS) hives persistent infections strong allergic reactions or urticaria	Y N <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	<b>Gastrointestinal</b> <input type="radio"/> None abdominal pain constipation diarrhea difficult or painful swallowing heartburn vomiting blood rectal bleeding bloody stools abdominal swelling change in bowel habits gas jaundice nausea stomach cramps difficulty swallowing	Y N <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	<b>Musculoskeletal</b> <input type="radio"/> None joint pain back pain joint stiffness muscle pain muscle cramps	Y N <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
<b>Cardiovascular</b> <input type="radio"/> None chest pain shortness of breath when lying flat palpitations (irregular heart beats) swelling of legs, feet or ankles rapid heart beat	Y N <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	<b>Genitourinary</b> <input type="radio"/> None pain or burning on urination genital lesions blood in urine frequent urination urinary incontinence change in urine stream painful intercourse excessive menstrual bleeding	Y N <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	<b>Neurological</b> <input type="radio"/> None unsteady walking or standing dizziness fainting or blackouts headaches memory loss numbness or tingling sensations tremors or uncontrollable shaking	Y N <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
<b>Constitutional</b> <input type="radio"/> None chills fatigue fever weight change loss of appetite malaise sweats	Y N <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	<b>Hematologic/Lymphatic</b> <input type="radio"/> None easy bruising bleeding tendencies past blood transfusion enlarged or swollen lymph nodes bleeding gums or palpable lymph nodes	Y N <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	<b>Psychiatric</b> <input type="radio"/> None anxiety nervousness depression personality or behavior changes sleep disturbances mood swings panic attacks	Y N <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
<b>ENMT</b> <input type="radio"/> None ear pain loss of hearing frequent nose bleeds nasal congestion or obstruction frequent discharge (runny nose) bleeding gums	Y N <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	<b>Integumentary</b> <input type="radio"/> None abnormal looking moles extremely dry skin jaundice (yellow or orange skin) itching rashes abnormal lumps or bumps allergies dryness hives lesions	Y N <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	<b>Respiratory</b> <input type="radio"/> None chronic cough shortness of breath coughing up blood asthma dyspnea excessive sputum wheezing	Y N <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
<b>Endocrine</b> <input type="radio"/> None hair loss heat or cold intolerance excessive thirst excessive hunger excessive sweating (sweats)	Y N <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>				
<b>Eyes</b> <input type="radio"/> None blurred vision eye pain pain when looking at light redness dryness double vision loss of vision	Y N <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>				

## Pharmacy

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Risk Assessment for Hereditary Cancers

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Insurance Provider: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Please circle Y for those that apply to YOU and/or YOUR FAMILY - BOTH MOM AND DADS SIDE OF FAMILY . Include any of below family members

*Yoursell Mother Father Brother Sister Children Paternal Uncle/Aunt Maternal Uncle/Aunt  
 Niece/Nephew Maternal Grandmother/Grandfather Paternal Grandmother/Grandfather First Cousin*

This is to determine if you are at risk of a gene mutation that may cause cancer in you or family members.

		YOU	Family Member	Moms side Or Dads side	Age at diagnosis	
Y N	Breast Cancer	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Y N	Breast Cancer in both Breasts Or Breast cancer twice in same person	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Y N	Male Breast Cancer	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Y N	Triple Negative Breast Cancer Under 60 (ER-, PR-, HER2-)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Y N	Pancreatic Cancer	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Y N	Ovarian Cancer	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Y N	Colon/Colorectal Cancer	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Y N	Uterine/Endometrial	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Y N	Stomach/Bladder	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Y N	Other Cancers (Renal pelvis, Brain, Biliary tract, Small bowel)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Y N	Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Y N	Have you or any member of your family ever been tested for BRAC or Lynch Syndrome? If yes, please explain: _____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Patient's Signature Date

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

- Candidate for further risk assessment and/or genetic testing
- Information given to patient to review
- Follow-up appointment scheduled Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- Patient offered genetic testing:
  - Accepted
  - Declined
- Patient not a candidate

\*For a better understanding of triple negative breast cancer please ask your healthcare provider.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Healthcare Professional's Signature Date

BRAC Risk Factors

Lynch Risk Factors

Personal History:

- Patient was personally affected with Breast Cancer at age 45 or younger or
  - Patient was personally affected with Ovarian Cancer at ANY AGE
- One Relative:
- One first or second degree relative with Breast Cancer at age 45 or younger or
  - One first or second degree relative with Ovarian Cancer at ANY AGE or
  - One first or second degree relative with Bilateral Breast Cancer when the first cancer dx was at age 50 or younger or
  - One first or second degree MALE relative with Breast Cancer at ANY AGE or
  - First or second degree relative with Triple Negative Breast Cancer at 60 or younger

Or Two Relatives:

- Two first or second degree relatives with Breast Cancer, one diagnosed at 50 or younger

Or Three Relatives:

- Three first or second degree relatives with Breast Cancer at ANY AGE or
- Three first, second or THIRD degree relatives with Breast Cancer, one diagnosed at 50 or younger or
- Combination of Pancreatic and/or Prostate (Gleason  $\geq 7$ ) and/or Breast and/or Ovarian cancer at ANY AGE in three first, second or THIRD degree relatives

Personal History:

- Patient personally affected by Colorectal or Endometrial Cancer before age 50 or
- Patient was personally affected with 2 Lynch Syndrome Cancers at ANY AGE; could be 2 separate colon cancer diagnoses (diagnosed at the same time or different times) or
- Patient has a Lynch Syndrome Cancer AND at least 1 first degree relative with a Lynch Syndrome Cancer, one of the cancers must be diagnosed under age 50 or
- Patient has a Lynch Syndrome cancer at ANY AGE AND 2 or more first or second degree relatives with a Lynch Syndrome Cancer at ANY AGE or

Family History:

- At least 1 first or second degree relative with Colorectal or Endometrial Cancer diagnosed before age 50 or
- At least 1 first or second degree relative with 2 Lynch Syndrome Cancers at ANY AGE or
- At least 2 first or second degree relatives with Lynch Syndrome Cancers, one of them being in bold below (Main Lynch Cancers)

Lynch Syndrome Cancers: **Colorectal, Endometrial, Ovarian, Stomach, Pancreatic, Small Intestine, Kidney (Renal Pelvis), Brain (Glioblastoma), Ureter, or Bile Duct**

\*\*\*\*\*Relatives MUST BE ON SAME SIDE OF FAMILY\*\*\*\*\*

First Degree Relatives = Mom, Dad, Brother, Sister, Son, Daughter

Second Degree Relatives = Grandmother, Grandfather, Aunt, Uncle, Niece, Nephew, Granddaughter, Grandson

Third Degree Relatives = First Cousin, Great Aunt, Great Uncle, Great Grandmother, Great Grandfather



**NOTICE OF PRIVACY POLICIES: THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW TO GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION.**

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:** We at East Tennessee Gastroenterology, PLLC are committed to treating and using protected health information (PHI) responsibly. This notice describes the personal information we collect, how and when we use and disclose this information and your rights as they relate to your protected health information. Our entire staff has been trained and is committed to the protection of your information. This notice is effective June 1, 2010.

**HOW WE MAY USE AND DISCLOSE INFORMATION ABOUT YOU:** We may use and disclose personal, identifiable health information about you for a variety of purposes.

**FOR TREATMENT:** We may use health information about you in your treatment. For example, a nurse obtains treatment information about you and records it in a health record or during the course of your treatment; the treating provider determines he/she will need to consult another specialist in the area. He/she will share the information with such specialist and obtain his/her input.

**FOR PAYMENT:** We may use and disclose health information about you to bill for our services and collect payment from you or your insurance company. For example, we submit requests for payment to your health insurance company and provide information about you and the care given.

**FOR HEALTH CARE OPERATIONS:** We may use and disclose information about you for the general operation of our business. For example, we may obtain services from business associates who are not our employees but help us to operate more efficiently. We may disclose health information to those associates as necessary to perform the services for which we hire them. These business associates must promise, in writing, that they will respect the confidentiality of your information.

**PUBLIC POLICY USES AND DISCLOSURES:** We may disclose information about you to public health authorities charged with preventing or controlling disease, injury or disability. Also, we may disclose information regarding adverse events and product defects.

We may disclose information for law enforcement purposes as required by law or in response to a warrant or subpoena. If you are a member of the Armed Forces, we may release information deemed necessary to military authorities. We may release information to the correctional facility of an incarcerated patient when it is necessary for his/her treatment.

**OTHER USES AND DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL INFORMATION:** We are required to obtain a written authorization from you for any disclosures other than those described above. You may revoke that permission, in writing, at any time. If you do, we will no longer use or disclose personal information about you as covered by your authorization.

**PATIENT RIGHTS:** Although your health record is the physical property of East Tennessee Gastroenterology, PLLC, the information belongs to you.

**YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO:** Request restrictions on the ways we use and disclose your information for treatment, payment and health care operations (we will consider your requests but we are not required to accept it).

Inspect and copy medical, billing and other records use to make decisions about you. If you ask for copies, we may charge a fee for copying and/or mailing.

Request a correction of information you believe is incorrect or incomplete. We may deny your request if the information is accurate and complete.

To exercise any of your rights or to obtain more information concerning this notice, please contact, in writing, East Tennessee Gastroenterology, PLLC. 2404 Chambliss Ave, Cleveland, TN 37311. When making a request for a correction to your record, you must state a specific reason for making the request.

**CHANGES TO THIS NOTICE:** We reserve the right to make changes to this notice at any time. You may request a copy of the revised notice at any time.

**COMPLAINTS/COMMENTS:** If you have any complaints concerning our privacy practice, you may contact: Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 509F, HHH Building, Washington, DC 202014.

You may contact us at: East Tennessee Gastroenterology, PLLC, ATTN: Kathy Ownbey, 2404 Chambliss Ave, Cleveland, TN 37311. Our phone is 423—339-2000

**YOU WILL NOT BE RETALIATED AGAINST OR PENALIZED FOR FILING A COMPLAINT.**

## Colonoscopy: What you need to know

The Affordable Care Act, passed in March 2010, allows for certain preventative services, such as colonoscopies, to be covered at no cost to the patient. **However, there are strict guidelines that address circumstances under which a colonoscopy is considered preventative.** This means that sometimes a procedure will be viewed by an insurance carrier as diagnostic when a patient is under the impression that it was preventative (screening).

You might be entitled to a different level of benefits under your insurance policy for diagnostic services than for preventative services. Some insurance carriers require patients with gastrointestinal histories to meet a deductible and / or make a copayment.

**We encourage you to contact your insurance carrier prior to your procedure.** To help you understand which type of colonoscopy best describe your procedure, please review the information below.

**Colonoscopy Categories:**Diagnostic/Therapeutic Colonoscopy: Patient has past and/or present gastrointestinal symptoms, polyps, GI disease, iron deficiency anemia and/or any other abnormal tests.

Surveillance/High Risk Screening Colonoscopy: Patient is asymptomatic (no gastrointestinal symptoms either past or present), has a personal history of GI disease, colon polyps, and/or cancer. Patients in this category are required to undergo colonoscopy surveillance at shortened intervals (every 2-5 years, for instance).

Preventative Colonoscopy with Screening Diagnosis: Patient is asymptomatic (no gastrointestinal symptoms either past or present), over the age of 50, has no personal or family history of GI disease, colon polyps, and/or cancer. The patient has not undergone a colonoscopy within the last 10 years).

Your primary care physician may refer you to our practice for a "screening" colonoscopy, but you might not qualify for the "screening" category. This is determined by the physician prior to your procedure. The determination is based upon past medical history, current symptoms, and/or information obtained from a referring physician. Before the procedure, you should know your colonoscopy category. After establishing the type of procedure that you are having, you can contact your insurance carrier to determine if your procedure will be covered and what your out-of-pocket expense will be. It is important to be specific in an inquiry to your insurance carrier. The diagnosis code and procedure code can be obtained from the physician's medical assistant if necessary. Also, be sure to indicate whether the procedure will be performed in the office, at East Tennessee Gastroenterology, or as an outpatient at Tennova Healthcare Cleveland.

***Can the physician change, add or delete my diagnosis so that I can be considered eligible for colon screening?***

No. The patient encounter is documented in your medical record from information you have provided as well as what is obtained during our pre-procedure history and assessment. It is a binding legal document that cannot be changed to facilitate better insurance coverage.

Patients need to understand that strict government and insurance company documentation and coding guidelines prevent a physician from altering a chart or bill for the sole purpose of coverage determination. ***This is considered insurance fraud and punishable by law.***

***What if my insurance company tells me that the doctor can change, add or delete a CPT or diagnosis code?***

Unfortunately this is a common occurrence. Often member service representatives will tell a patient that if only the physician coded it with a "screening" diagnosis it would have been covered at 100%. Further questioning of the representative will reveal that the "screening" diagnosis can only be amended if it applies to the patient. Many insurance carriers only consider a patient over the age of 50 with no personal or family history as well as no past or present gastrointestinal symptoms as a "screening".

If you are given this information, please document the date, name, and phone number of the insurance representative. Next, contact our billing department at (423) 339-2000. An audit will be performed to review the billing and investigate the information given. Often the outcome results in the insurance company calling the patient back to explain that an insurance carrier should not ever suggest a physician change their billing to produce better benefit coverage. The billing of a procedure should not be changed unless the changes more accurately describe the reason for service and exactly which services were performed.

***\*If you have any questions or concerns regarding your insurance benefits and coverage, please contact your insurance carrier.***

***\*Our business office staff can be reached at (423) 339-2000. We are happy to assist in reviewing coverage and benefit information provided by your insurance carrier.***

*Thank you for your cooperation*