

# Colonoscopy Screening



## Is it Time to Schedule a Colonoscopy Screening at Surgical Associates?

Colorectal cancer (or colon cancer) is the third most common malignancy in the United States and the second most common cause of cancer death. Fortunately, there are pain-free ways to screen for colon cancer right here in central and northern Wisconsin.

A colonoscopy is a very effective, preventative cancer screening tool that can be performed by our surgeons in just a few hours at the Pine Ridge Surgery Center in Wausau. You will need to prepare the day before by cleansing your bowels, but after the procedure, you can go home and rest, then return to regular activities the next day. Someone should drive you home after your colonoscopy.

Patients are lightly sedated prior to a colonoscopy to ensure that no discomfort is experienced. During the half hour to one hour procedure, a highly-skilled surgeon guides a thin, flexible camera and precision surgical tools through the rectum and into the colon to identify and remove benign polyps before they grow into malignancies. The surgeon will also remove any other abnormal tissue that may warrant a biopsy. No other cancer screening procedure has a better record for decreasing mortality. A colonoscopy can also provide your primary care physician with vital information for treating unexplained changes in bowel habits, pain or bleeding in the abdominal area, weight loss, constipation and diarrhea.



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# Who Needs a Colonoscopy?

Your primary physician will advise you to schedule a colonoscopy if you have risk factors such as:

- A personal history of cancer or polyps
- Family history of colon cancer
- Genetic syndromes such as hereditary nonpolyposis colon cancer (Lynch), familial polyposis, Gardener's
- Inflammatory bowel disease causing colitis
- You're between the ages of 45-75

**The American College of Surgeons states that 75-90% of all colon cancer could be prevented if everyone at risk participated in a colonoscopy screening.**

Call 1-888-278-3795 to schedule your colonoscopy with one of these surgeons:

**Wausau:**

Dr. Jennine Larson  
Dr. Gary Sweet, Jr.  
Dr. William Wilfley  
Dr. Jeremy Olson

**Stevens Point:**

Dr. William Wilfley  
Dr. Jeremy Olson



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and Michigan's UP*

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