

# Preparing For Your Colon and Rectal Surgery Appointment



We want to make sure that you are well prepared before your first visit with our colon and rectal surgeons. Most importantly, we want to help lessen any anxiety you may feel before your visit.

This page offers a helpful list of information to get and what to think about before your visit. Whether you were referred by another doctor or you chose to come yourself, ***we ask that you gather all your records before your scheduled appointment and bring them with you.***

Here are some useful recommendations:

1. Ask your referring physician why they are recommending the consultation. This will help us understand the reason for your visit.
2. Please bring the following information and documents to your visit:
  - A list of your medical problems
  - A detailed list of all prior procedures and operations
  - A detailed list of all your medications including names, doses and when started
  - Any allergies to medications, food or other thing and the type of reaction you had
  - All surgical reports, endoscopy and colonoscopy reports and related pathology reports
  - Reports of all related x-rays, MRIs, CT scans and other related studies (bring a CD disc containing the study images)
  - Reports from any other related consultations including other surgical opinions
3. Make a list of questions to bring to your visit. Common questions include:
  - What is my diagnosis?
  - Will I need additional tests?
  - Will I need surgery?
  - When should I have the surgery and how urgent is it?
4. The surgeon will ask you questions as well. Having an idea of what type of questions will help you be more prepared to answer them. Common questions include:
  - When did your symptoms first begin?
  - How bad are your symptoms?
  - Does anything improve your symptoms?
  - Does anything worsen your symptoms?
  - Have you tried any other treatments?

Many other questions may come up during your visit and afterwards. Please do not hesitate to speak up and ask questions. We want you to be well informed before making a decision regarding your health and possible surgery.

Most importantly, we want you to know that we are here to help you, every step of the way. If you have any questions, please call our office at 312-942-7088 or email us at [RushCRS@Rush.edu](mailto:RushCRS@Rush.edu).

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