



*Wilmington Gastroenterology
and Endoscopy Center*



Patient Information

5115 Oleander Drive • Wilmington, NC 28403

Wilmington Gastroenterology Associates was founded in 2000 by Doctors Clinton L. Meyer, Joseph Kittinger III, William W. King, and Robert D.J. Henihan. Drs. Klein, Carney and Sauer joined the group in 2005 and 2008 respectively. Each doctor is board certified both in Gastroenterology and Internal Medicine and licensed by the state medical board of North Carolina. They have many years of combined experience providing safe, high quality, gastroenterological services. Thank you for allowing us to provide your healthcare service.

Mission Statement

To provide high quality, convenient outpatient gastroenterology services to the community we serve, creating exceptional value for our patients, our employees, and our partners.

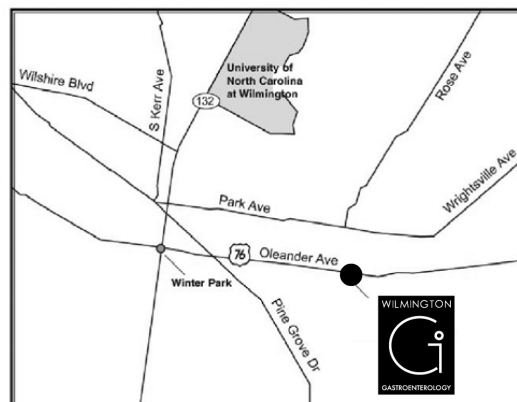
Location

5115 Oleander Drive
Wilmington, NC 28403
(910) 362-1011 M – F 8:00 -5:00
(910) 509-8025 After Hours
(910) 362-1012 fax
www.wilmingtongi.com



Driving Directions:

Our office is located on Oleander Drive east of College Road towards Wrightsville Beach. Head east on Oleander Drive from College Road go through the intersection of Pine Grove directly across from the Elks Lodge on the left.



Wilmington Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Center

The physicians and staff at Wilmington Gastroenterology Associates are located at 5115 Oleander Drive. Our facility has over 15,000 square feet. We have added additional staff and new equipment to provide you with the best possible gastroenterology care possible.

Included in our building is our NC state licensed, Medicare Certified, AAAHC Accredited Endoscopy Center in which you will find we can meet your endoscopy needs in a safe, comfortable and cost-effective environment that promotes a higher level of continuity-of-care. Our center has also received special recognition from the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) which honors endoscopy units that follow the ASGE guidelines on privileging, quality assurance, endoscopy reprocessing and CDC infection control guidelines. You will now be able to see our physicians in our office and also have your procedure done in the comfort of our new state-of-the-art Endoscopy Center.

The advantages of having your gastroenterology care/procedure done in our office are many:

- **Cost Effective.** By having your procedure performed in our facility we will be able to reduce the cost to you and your insurance carrier. Contact your insurance carrier and ask if they have contracted with Wilmington Gastroenterology Associates so you can have your procedure performed by our physicians in our new facility and thereby reduce your costs.
- **Comfort.** You will be able to have your gastroenterology care and/or procedure in the comfort of our new office setting.
- **Convenience.** One stop gastroenterology services. Our office location is ideally located at 5115 Oleander Drive with easy access and extensive parking.
- **Continuity of Care.** Our staff will assist you from scheduling your appointment through having your procedure.
- **State-of-the-Art Equipment.** Our office contains new office equipment and all new gastroenterology procedure equipment to assist you with all your gastroenterology needs.
- We will continue to offer the finest gastroenterology care possible in a friendly, family environment. We are committed to your care and our staff are here to assist you.

❖ Endoscopy Center Procedure List

Rigid sigmoidoscopy

Flexible sigmoidoscopy

Flexible sigmoidoscopy with biopsy

Esophagogastroduodenoscopy

Esophagogastroduodenoscopy with biopsy

Esophagogastroduodenoscopy with dilatation

Colonoscopy

Colonoscopy with biopsy

Colonoscopy with polypectomy

Esophageal dilatation

Virtual Capsule Endoscopy

Our Physicians:



Clinton L. Meyer, MD

Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Dr. Meyer received his B.S. from the University of Maine, Orno, Maine, and his M.D. from Memorial University of Newfoundland Medical School, St. Johns, NFLD. He completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Carney Hospital Medical Service, Boston, MA, and a Gastroenterology Fellowship at Boston Veterans Administration Medical Center, Boston, MA. Dr. Meyer is Board-certified in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM). He is a Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at the Univeristy of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Joseph Kittinger, III, MD, FACP, FACG, AGAF

Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition

Dr. Kittinger received his B.A. from the University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, and his M.D. from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, AR. He completed a residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock, AR, and a Gastroenterology Fellowship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC. Dr. Kittinger is Board-certified in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM). He is a Clinical Associate Professor of medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



William W. King, MD

Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Dr. King received his B.S. from Davidson College, Davidson, NC, and his M.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, NC. He completed a residency in Internal Medicine at University Hospital, Boston, MA, and a Gastroenterology Fellowship at Boston University Medical Center, Boston, MA. Dr. King is Board-certified in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM). He is a Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Robert D.J. Henihan, MD

Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Dr. Henihan received his B.A. and his M.D. from Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland. He completed a residency in Internal Medicine at Boston City Hospital, Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA, and a Gastroenterology Fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA. Dr. Henihan is Board-certified in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM). He is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Our Physicians (continued):



Steven D. Klein, MD

Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Dr. Klein received his B.S. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and his M.D. from New York Medical College, Valhalla, NY. He completed a residency in Internal Medicine and a Gastroenterology Fellowship at Emory University, Atlanta, GA. Dr. Klein is Board-certified in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology by the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM).



D. Spencer Carney, MD

Dr. Carney received his B.A. from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI. He went on to earn his M.D. at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. Following medical school, he completed his residency and fellowship in Dallas, TX, at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Dr. Carney is Board-certified in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology by the American Board of Internal Medicine.



Mariam S. Sauer, MD

Dr. Sauer received her undergraduate and medical degrees at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She then completed her residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Chicago Hospitals, Chicago, IL. Her gastroenterology fellowship training was at Loyola University, Chicago, IL. Dr. Sauer is Board-certified in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Patient Bill of Rights

- A patient has the right to quality health care, regardless of race, color, creed, age, sex, sexual preference, religion, disability, national origin.
- A patient has the right to considerate, respectful care given by competent personnel who adhere to high professional standards.
- A patient has the right to participate in the development and implementation of his/her plan of care.
- A patient has the right to be informed in advance of the medical practice discontinuing care whenever possible.
- A patient has the right to a full explanation regarding all procedures, expected outcomes, treatments or continuing health care needs, such as return visits and required medications that will be needed by the patient after discharge.
- A patient has the right to make an informed decision regarding his/her care.
- A patient has the right to refuse to participate in experimental research.
- A patient has the right to voice grievances regarding treatment or care that is (or fails to be) furnished.
- A patient has the right to prompt resolution of a complaint/grievance and knowledge of whom to contact to file such a complaint/grievance. (North Carolina Medical Board at (800)-253-9653 or 1203 Front Street, Raleigh, NC 27609 or www.medicare.gov/ombudsman/resources.asp)
- A patient has the right to assistance in obtaining consultation with another physician at the patient's request and expense.
- A patient cannot be denied the right of access to an individual or agency that is authorized to act on his behalf to assert or protect the rights set out in this section.
- A patient has the right to know what facility rules and regulations apply to his/her conduct as a patient.
- A patient has the right to be informed of his/her health status and receive information about the illness, course of treatment, and prospects for recovery in terms the patient can understand.
- A patient has the right to change providers and to be involved in care planning and treatment, and actively participate in decisions regarding medical care, including decisions to withhold or withdraw treatment if the patient has a terminal condition.
- A patient has the right to refuse any and all drugs, treatments or procedures and be informed of the medical consequences of refusal.
- A patient has the right to adequate and appropriate procedural pain management.
- A patient has the right to have a family member or representative of his/her choice and his/her own physician notified promptly of his/her admission to the hospital.
- A patient has the right to be transferred to a hospital when medically necessary. The hospital to which the patient is transferred must first have accepted the patient for transfer.
- A patient has the right to exercise his or her rights without being subjected to discrimination or reprisal.

Privacy and Safety

The patient has the right:

- To personal privacy
- To receive care in a safe setting
- To be free from all forms of abuse and harassment
- To be free from needless duplication of medical and nursing procedures

Confidentiality and Patient Records

The patient has the right:

- To confidentiality of all communication, case discussion, consultation, examination, treatment and

- his/her clinical records, except as otherwise provided by law or third party contractual arrangements.
- To access information contained in his/her clinical record within a reasonable time frame by placing a request with the medical records department.

Additional Information for Medicare Patients

All issues, concerns, or complaints can be reported by contacting our Practice Administrator or Nurse Manager. If we are unable to address your concerns, you may contact the following for assistance.

1. Medicare Ombudsman: www.medicare.gov/ombudsman/resources.asp
Visit www.medicare.gov. on the web.
Or, call (1-800-633-4227)
TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
2. NC DHSR Complaint Intake Unit
www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dhsr/ciu/complaintintake
Rita Horton, 2711 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699 or 1-800-624-3004 or 1-919-855-4500

Advance Directives – Living Will or Health Care Power of Attorney Resources

For applicable state laws and sample forms for creating a living will or healthcare power of attorney, you may contact one of the following.

1. Caring Connections at 1-800-658-8898 for English or
1-877-658-8896 for other languages or www.caringinfo.org
2. NC DHHS Division of Aging and Adult Services at
1-733-3983 or www.ncdhhs.gov/aging
Select Topic Index and then Advance Directives

Carolinas End of Life Care at 1-800-662-8859 or
www.carolinasendoflifecare.org

Advance Directive Policy:

Please be aware that we do not honor living wills or do not resuscitate orders at this facility due to the fact that a terminal, incurable, vegetative state is not anticipated in this outpatient setting.

If you present to this center for a procedure with a living will or valid Do Not Resuscitate Order (DNR) or Out of Facility form and you have an emergency, we will start CPR and call 911 for transport you to the hospital. EMS will be informed of the Do Not Resuscitate Order or living will upon arrival.

Advance Directives:

An “Advance Directive” is a general term that refers to your oral and written instructions about your future medical care, in the event that you become unable to speak for yourself. Each state regulates the use of advance directives differently. There are two types of advance directives: a living will and a medical power of attorney. If you would like a copy of the official State advance directive forms, visit: www.secretary.state.nc.us/ahcdr or [www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/medicaid/Advanced DirectCondensed.pdf](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/medicaid/AdvancedDirectCondensed.pdf)

Living Will: A living will is a document that tells others what measures you want taken if you are terminally ill, incurably sick, or in a persistent vegetative state. You may also give your doctor specific instruction not to use heroic treatments that would delay your dying, such as a breathing machine.

Health Care Power of Attorney: In North Carolina, you can name a person to make medical / mental health care decisions for you if you later become unable to decide yourself. This person is called your “health care agent.” In the legal document you name who you want your agent to be. You can say what medical treatments you would want and what you would not want. Your health care agent then knows what choices you would make.

The booklet, “Medical Care Decisions and Advance Directives, What You Should Know”, is available upon request to inform patients about Advance Directives. Medical treatment in the Endoscopy Center will in no way be affected if the patient does or does not have a Living Will and/or Health Care Power of Attorney.

ADVANCE DIRECTIVES WILL NOT BE HONORED AT OUR OUTPATIENT FACILITY. IN CASE OF ARREST , 911 WILL BE CALLED AND BASIC LIFE SUPPORT WILL BE INITIATED.

Wilmington Gastroenterology Associates Advance Directive Policy

The procedures performed at Wilmington Gastroenterology Associates are considered to be of minimal risk. Of course, no problem is without risk. You and your physician will have discussed the specifics of your procedure and the risks associated with your procedure, the expected recovery and the care after your procedure.

It is the policy of Wilmington Gastroenterology Associates Endoscopy Center, regardless of the contents of any advance directive or instructions from health care surrogate or attorney in fact, that if an adverse event occurs during your treatment at our facility the personnel at the Endoscopy Center will initiate resuscitative or other stabilizing measures and transfer you to an acute care hospital for further evaluation. At the acute care hospital further treatment or withdrawal of treatment measures already begun will be ordered in accordance with your wishes, advance directive, or health care power of attorney.

Patient Satisfaction:

At WGA we strive to provide our patients with the finest medical care and outpatient endoscopy care available. As part of this commitment to quality care, the management at WGA has implemented a patient satisfaction survey. The information obtained from the surveys is reviewed by our Quality Improvement Committee and passed on to our Governing Body. We believe that with patient input and constructive criticism, we can continue to work to maintain and exceed the highest standards for outpatient care. Please take a few moments to complete the survey and return it to our office. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

Patient Grievances:

The grievance and appeals process gives our patients an avenue for resolving problems with the medical care and services we provide. Whether the problem concerns access to care ... dissatisfaction with our doctors or employees ... or a utilization management decision about their medical care, we will investigate the issue and work toward a satisfactory solution. Please report any issues to any WGA employee or call our office at (910) 362-1011 so that we may serve you better. If you feel that your issue has not been properly resolved you may report it to the New Hanover - Pender County Medical Society Mediation Committee at (910) 790-5800.

Ownership Disclosure:

The Wilmington Gastroenterology endoscopy center is wholly owned by the physicians of Wilmington Gastroenterology Associates. Currently the owners are Drs. Clinton Meyer, Joseph Kittinger III, William King, Robert Henihan, Steven Klein, D. Spencer Carney and Mariam Sauer.

After Hours and Emergency Service:

Wilmington Gastroenterology Associates office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. If the patient has any questions or concerns regarding their health care during these hours they should call the main office number. If during regular office hours the patient is experiencing a medical emergency they should call 911 or visit the nearest emergency room.

At WGA we realize that patients may have medical issues that extend past regular office hours. For this reason patients should call (910) 509-8025 in order to contact the physician on call for emergencies. Routine medical care is given only during office hours. If the patient is experiencing a medical emergency after office hours they should call 911.

Insurance and Billing:

WGA will file your claim with your health insurance carrier. Any copays and deductibles are due in full at the time of service. We accept credit cards, checks, and cash. WGA will make every effort to verify your insurance coverage before your procedure and obtain any preauthorization necessary. However, each patient is ultimately responsible for the payment of their medical service. All quoted prices are estimates based on the scheduled services. Additional services may be necessary once your procedure has started. If you have questions about your bill please contact our office at (910) 362-1011 from Monday through Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Pathology Services:

During your endoscopy procedure we may remove a lesion or polyp and/or perform a tissue biopsy. These tissue specimens will be processed in our office and made into a readable slide here in our office by our histology technician. These slides are sent to PML Laboratory for interpretation to determine if they are normal, pre-cancerous, or cancerous tissues. Their team of pathologists specializes in anatomic pathology related specifically to gastrointestinal disease. You will receive 2 separate bills for your pathology service: one from our office for the technical component and one from PML for the professional interpretation.

The Affordable Care Act and Colonoscopy Frequently Asked Questions

What changes have been made in health care coverage under new Federal regulations related to colonoscopy ?

Under the Affordable Care Act, screening colonoscopies are now fully covered by Medicare and nearly all other private insurers. Patients will still be responsible for co-pays, co-insurance, deductibles, and other out-of-pocket costs if the colonoscopy becomes diagnostic rather than a screening procedure. Patients may also be responsible for costs related to anesthesia and pathology.

What is the difference between a screening and diagnostic colonoscopy ?

A screening colonoscopy is a procedure done for a patient who has no symptoms of colon cancer. A diagnostic colonoscopy is done when a patient has related symptoms or has a polyp removed or biopsy during the procedure. Colon cancer screening is recommended for all people at the age of 50 and earlier for those with a family history of colon cancer or polyps. In some cases, private insurers, may treat anyone with a family history as a diagnostic colonoscopy.

Can a patient go in for a screening colonoscopy and end up paying for a diagnostic colonoscopy ?

Yes. Even if the patient has no symptoms, the procedure will be classified a diagnostic colonoscopy if a polyp is found. The good news, if that occurs, is that the procedure may have prevented the patient from getting colon cancer.

What types of symptoms could cause a colonoscopy to be classified as a diagnostic colonoscopy ?

It will vary depending on your insurance plan but could include hemorrhoids, changes in bowel habits, rectal bleeding, or abdominal pain. Often, a diagnosis of family history, will be treated by some private insurers as diagnostic procedure which will be subject to co-insurance and deductible.

How much do patients typically have to pay for a diagnostic colonoscopy ?

Medicare patients would be responsible for the standard 20% co-insurance. For patients with private insurance, their out-of-pocket cost will vary depending on the plan. We attempt to thoroughly verify benefits for every diagnostic procedure and notify the patient of the expected or estimated out-of-pocket cost. Of course private insurers never guarantee payment until claims are fully processed and often this information is not fully available from private insurers. If you have questions about your specific coverage please contact your insurance company.

Dear Patient,

During your endoscopy procedure we may remove a lesion or polyp and/or perform a tissue biopsy. These tissue specimens will be processed and made into readable slides here in our office by our histology technician. These slides will be sent to PML Pathology, our recommended anatomic pathology service providers, to determine if they are normal, pre-cancerous, or cancerous. PML Pathology has a team of pathologists that specialize in anatomic pathology related to gastrointestinal disease. Drs. Jason Sprouse, Richard Landau and David Schuetze are all Board Certified by the American Board of Pathology. Our office is responsible for preparing the specimen for referral to the laboratory and reporting of pathology results back to you as the patient.

You will receive 2 separate bills for your pathology service. Wilmington Gastroenterology will bill your insurance carrier for the slide preparation or technical component and PML Laboratories will bill your insurance for the reading or professional component. If you have questions about our portion of the bill please contact our office at (910) 362-1011. If you have a question about a bill you receive from PML please call (800) 772-8313.

Under very limited circumstances there can be an occasion in which we bill your insurance carrier for both the technical and professional components of the pathology service. Under law passed by the North Carolina General Assembly (House Bill 636) in 2005, we are required to disclose to all patients the price we pay for anatomic pathology services and what we bill your insurance plan and you. Very rarely we purchase anatomic pathology services (CPT code 88305) at \$43 per specimen from PML. Many pathologists who practice in the region generally bill in excess of \$175 per specimen for the same service. We will bill your insurance plan and you \$125 per specimen for the service in an effort to save you money and to cover our handling costs. Our billed charges are generally discounted further by the insurance plan. Occasionally the pathologists may perform other pathology lab services to assist the interpretation of your specimen and their charges to us are as follows: CPT code 88312 - \$40 and 88313- \$33. We bill your insurance \$125 for each of these services as well.

If you have any questions in relation to anatomic pathology services and their cost, please do not hesitate to speak to our office.

Thank you.

**WILMINGTON GASTROENTEROLOGY ASSOCIATES
ADVANCED SEDATION ADMINISTRATION**

The physicians at Wilmington Gastroenterology are committed to making your Endoscopy procedure as pleasant as possible for you. Therefore, we have contracted with an anesthesia provider to administer the most advanced sedation with your comfort and safety in mind. Please read the information provided below to learn more about the sedation you will receive during your procedure.

PROPOFOL

Propofol is the sedation of choice for our physicians because there is emerging evidence that patients sedated with Propofol have an increased incidence of polyp detection during colonoscopy. This is likely attributed to the fact that patients are more comfortable during the procedure and may tolerate a more thorough examination. There are several benefits to Propofol sedation when compared to conscious sedation or other sedative agents:

- Propofol has a very rapid onset of action.
- Propofol also has a very short duration of action so that at the conclusion of your procedure you will have very little to no residual drowsiness.
- You will be able to speak with the physician after your procedure about the findings.
- With Propofol you will be completely unaware of the procedure and will not experience any pain.
- Propofol does not induce nausea or vomiting like some other sedative drugs.
- With Propofol patients experience little to no abdominal cramping after their procedure.

Propofol will be administered by a nurse anesthetist who will be with you throughout your procedure. The anesthesia provider will monitor your blood pressure, heart rate and respiratory status.

There is a separate fee for the administration of Propofol by our anesthesia provider. Your insurance will be billed for anesthesia services by Carolina Anesthesia Associates, PA. You will be billed for any outstanding balance after your insurance pays.

When Propofol is given please be advised that you may also receive a drug called **Robinul**. **Robinul** is a drug administered pre-procedure to dry your mouth. Please let the nurse know if you have a history of glaucoma, prostate problems or irregular heart rate. Robinul will not be given in these patients.

Some patients may be excluded from receiving Propofol sedation because of their medical history and/or current medical problems. It is important to know that the physician and nurse anesthetist always have the final decision at the time of your procedure to change your sedation.

**WILMINGTON GASTROENTEROLOGY ASSOCIATES
ENDOSCOPY CENTER**

Name _____
Birth Date _____
Chart _____

**Informed Consent for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy,
Administration of Sedation**

Explanation of Procedure

Direct visualization of the digestive tract with lighted instruments is referred to as gastrointestinal endoscopy. Your physician has advised you to have this type of examination. The following information is presented to help you understand the reasons for and the possible risks of these procedures.

At the time of the endoscopy examination, the inside lining of the digestive tract will be inspected thoroughly with a flexible lighted instrument and possible photographed. If an abnormality is seen or suspected, a small portion of tissue may be removed for microscopic study (biopsy), or the lining may be brushed and washed with a solution which can be sent for special study for abnormal cells (cytology). Small growths can frequently be completely removed (polypectomy). Occasionally, a narrowed portion (stricture) will be stretched to a more normal size (dilatation). I understand that all procedures are not perfect and there is a risk of missing a lesion. **I have been provided information regarding ownership and my patient rights.**

Principle Risks and Complications of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

Gastrointestinal endoscopy is generally a low risk procedure. However, all of the below complications are possible. Your physician will discuss their frequency with you, if you desire, with particular reference to own indications for gastrointestinal endoscopy. *You must ask your physician if you have any unanswered questions about your test.*

- 1. Perforation:** Passage of the instrument may result in injury to the gastrointestinal tract wall with possible leakage of gastrointestinal contents into the body cavity. If this occurs surgery to close the leak and/or drain the region is usually required.
- 2. Bleeding:** Bleeding, if it occurs, is usually a complication of biopsy, polypectomy or dilatation. Management of this complication may consist only of careful observation, may require transfusions or possibly a surgical operation for control.
- 3. Other Risks:** Include drug reactions and complications from other diseases you may already have. Damage to teeth or dental work is possible. Instrument failure and death are extremely rare, but remain remote possibilities. *You must inform your physician of all your allergic tendencies and medical problems. I understand that Wilmington Gastroenterology is an Ambulatory Surgery Center and does not provide 24 hour care. If my physician finds it necessary or advisable to transfer me to a hospital, I authorize the Wilmington Gastroenterology employees to arrange for and affect this transfer. Additionally, I authorize my information to be communicated to the transferring facility for continuity of care.*

Alternatives to Gastrointestinal Endoscopy

Although gastrointestinal endoscopy is an extremely safe and effective means of examining the gastrointestinal tract, it is not 100 percent accurate in diagnosis. In a small percentage of cases a failure of diagnosis or mis-diagnosis may result. Other diagnostic or therapeutic procedures, such as medical treatment, x-ray and surgery are available. Another option is to choose no diagnostic studies and/or treatment. Your physician will be happy to discuss these options with you.

Brief Description of Endoscopic Procedures

- 1. Colonoscopy-** examination of all or a portion of the colon requiring careful preparation with diet, enemas and/or medications. Biopsy, cytology, dilatation, polypectomy and/or the use of equipment to apply heat or electric current to a bleeding site to stop bleeding may be necessary.
- 2. EGD (gastrosocopy)-** examination of the esophagus from the throat to the entrance of the stomach, the stomach pouch, and the small intestine just beyond the stomach. Biopsy, cytology, dilatation and/or the use of equipment to apply heat may be necessary.
- 3. Esophageal Dilatation-** the passing of progressively larger rubber, metal tubes or balloon through the mouth and down the esophagus, stretching any narrowed portions of strictures to a more normal size. May be used in conjunction with gastroscopy.
- 4. Proctoscopy/ Sigmoidoscopy-** examination of the anus, rectum and lower part of the colon. Biopsy, cytology, dilatation, polypectomy and/or the use of equipment to apply heat or electric current to a bleeding site to stop bleeding may be necessary.
- 5. Capsule Endoscopy-** examination of the small bowel using images transmitted by a video capsule.

Moderate Sedation

Our aim is to make your procedure as comfortable as possible. To help achieve this goal, intravenous sedation is often used. Medicines are given intravenously through a vein in your arm or hand and monitoring devices are continually used to watch your blood pressure, heart rhythm and breathing. Our office is equipped with the latest in safety features and our staff is trained in the use of these sedative medications. Although common and quite safe, any sedation carries some degree of risk and it is important for you to be aware of these risks prior to consenting to the procedure.

- Allergic reactions to any of the medications used.
- Discomfort or bruising at the site where the drugs are placed into a vein.
- Vein irritation, called phlebitis, where the needle is placed into a vein. This causes a red, painful swelling of the vein surrounding tissue. The area could become infected. Discomfort in the area may persist for several weeks to To several months.
- Nausea and vomiting, although not common, may occur With intravenous sedation.
- Intravenous sedation is a serious medical procedure and, whether given in a hospital or office, carries with it the risk of brain damage, stroke, heart attack or death.
- There is a risk of depressed respiration "stopped breathing" where it becomes necessary for intubation or placement of a breathing tube.

In order to insure your best outcome, please adhere to the following:

Because the anesthetic medication causes prolonged drowsiness, you **MUST** be accompanied by a responsible adult who will be required to remain in the office for the duration of your test. They must be willing to drive you home and stay with you for several hours until you are recovered sufficiently to care for yourself. Sometimes the effects of the medications do not wear off for 24 hours.

During recovery time you should not drive, operate complicated machinery or make any important decisions.

You must have a completely empty stomach. It is vital that you have **NOTHING TO EAT OR DRINK** (including water) for five (5) hours prior to your sedation. If directed, sips of water may be used to take your blood pressure, heart, seizure, breathing and/or chronic pain medications.

I consent to the taking and publication of any photographs made during my procedure for use in the advancement of medical education. I certify that I understand the information regarding gastrointestinal endoscopy. I have been fully informed of the risks and possible complications of my procedure and moderate sedation. I hereby authorize and permit Dr. _____ to perform the following procedure:

- Upper Endoscopy with possible biopsy, dilatation with moderate/Propofol sedation
- Colonoscopy with possible biopsy, polypectomy with moderate/Propofol sedation
- Esophageal dilatation with moderate/Propofol sedation
- Flexible Sigmoidoscopy with possible biopsy
- Capsule Endoscopy
- Other _____

If any unforeseen condition arises during this procedure calling for (in the physician's judgment) additional procedures, treatments or medicines, I authorize him to do whatever he deems advisable for my health, safety and well-being. I am aware that due to the temporary state of incapacitation resulting from moderate sedation used during my procedure WGA will not honor **living wills** or a **do not resuscitate (DNR)** order.

Patient viewed procedure video _____

Signature _____
Witness _____
Date _____ Time _____
MD _____

I consent to the presence of additional designated individuals for observational learning or inspection purposes.

Signature of Patient

CONSENT FOR ANESTHESIA SERVICES AND ADVANCE BENEFICIARY NOTICE

Anesthesia is a specialty medical service that administers anesthetic agents to patients and manages patients who are rendered unconscious or have diminished response to pain and stress during the course of a medical, surgical, or obstetrical procedure. I hereby authorize and direct CAROLINA ANESTHESIA and the individual anesthesia provider in consultation with my physician to care for me, and to administer anesthesia for my medical or surgical procedure. Risks and complications associated with anesthesia may include allergic reaction, aspiration/pneumonia, respiratory problems, changes in blood pressure, damage to dentition, brain damage, infection, muscle aches, nausea, ophthalmic (eye) injury, pain, positional nerve injury and in very rare cases death. My questions regarding the nature, purpose and risks of the anesthetic, as well as the possibility of complications, have been explained to me. I do understand that although favorable results can be expected, they cannot be and are not guaranteed.

I hereby authorize Carolina Anesthesia Associates to furnish information to insurance carriers and other physicians concerning my illness and treatments, and I hereby assign Carolina Anesthesia Associates to provide treatment to myself (or minor child). Necessary Forms will be completed to expedite insurance carrier payments, but I hereby acknowledge that I am responsible for all fees regardless of insurance coverage. I also agree that I may be contacted by telephone at any telephone number associated with my account, including wireless telephone numbers, which could result in charges to me.

I also understand that Insurance and Medicare may not pay for all of my health care costs. Medicare only pays for covered items and services when Medicare rules are met. The fact that Insurance or Medicare may not pay for a particular item or service does not mean that you should not receive it. There may be a good reason your doctor recommended it.

The purpose of this form with the anesthesia plan, is to help you make an informed choice about whether or not you want to receive these services, understanding the risks/benefits and knowing that you also might have to pay for them yourself. Before you make a decision about your options, you should read this entire notice carefully.

* Ask us to explain the anesthesia planned for your procedure if you don't understand.

SIGN & DATE

YES. I consent to these services

I consent to Carolina Anesthesia and the individual anesthesia provider to administer anesthesia for my surgical or diagnostic procedure. I understand that Insurance or Medicare will not decide whether to pay unless I receive these items or services. Please submit my claim to my Insurance Provider or Medicare. I understand that you may bill me for items or services and that I may have to pay the bill while my Insurance Provider or Medicare is making its decision. If Insurance or Medicare does pay, you will refund to me any payments I made to you that are due to me. If Insurance or Medicare denies payment, I agree to be personally and fully responsible for payment. I understand I can appeal my Insurance Provider or Medicare's decision.

Date

Signature of patient or person acting on patient's behalf

Date

Anesthesia Provider signature

I certify that I have explained the benefits/risks of the proposed anesthetic to the patient or the patient's legal representative. I have answered all questions, and I believe that the patient/legal representative understand.

Note: Your health information will be kept confidential. As mandated by privacy laws, any information that we collect about you on this form will be kept confidential. If a claim is submitted to your Insurance Provider or Medicare, your health information may be shared with those providers.

PATIENT NAME:

(Attach Label if Available)



**Carolina
Anesthesia
Associates, P.A.**

Patient Medical Record # _____

WILMINGTON GASTROENTEROLOGY ASSOCIATES

This is to certify that I have received a copy of Wilmington Gastroenterology Associates Patient Information Booklet.

Included in this booklet are:

- Your Patient Bill of Rights
- Advance Directive information
- Patient Grievance information
- Pathology Billing Information
- Ownership Disclosure
- The Affordable Care Act and Colonoscopy Information

Signed _____

Date _____

Print Name _____

If patient unable to sign _____
(Responsible Party signature)

Date _____

(Relationship)