

**If you have a cold, flu, fever or are feeling ill, contact the Bookings Office at 519-631-2030, ext. 2004 prior to coming for your test.**

## What is a CT Colonography?

Computed Tomography (CT) colonography or virtual colonoscopy uses special x-ray equipment to examine the large intestine. The technologist uses carbon dioxide to inflate the colon and the rectum and takes images.

## What will happen during a CT Colonography?

You will be asked to wear a hospital gown and remove any metal objects, such as jewelry that might interfere with the machine.

You will lie on a narrow table during the exam. The table slides through the round opening of the machine. You will get an intravenous (IV) that will be inserted into a vein in your arm before you have your scan done. A muscle relaxant (Hyocine) will be injected through the IV just prior to the start of the scan. This will relax your bowel for a short time while images are taken. Abdominal cramping will decrease during the scan. You will be asked to hold your breath at times.

The scan will require the insertion of a Foley catheter into your rectum. A small balloon will be inflated on the end of the catheter to hold the catheter in place during procedure. An electronic machine will deliver Carbon Dioxide gas into your colon to inflate the colon as much as possible to eliminate any folds or wrinkles in the bowel.

Throughout the scan, you will be asked to turn onto your stomach, sides, and back in order to move the gas around the large bowel. Images are taken with you on your stomach, back, and possibly sides if necessary.

During the scan, the technologist will be in a shielded room to operate the CT scanner. The technologist will be able to see and hear you at all times and will talk to you through the intercom.

## How to Prepare for the CT Colonography?

- Obtain a CT Colonography Kit by taking your prescription to Shopper Drug Mart- Elmwood square (204 First Ave, St. Thomas) or the Prescription Shop at St Joseph's Hospital (London).
- Starting the morning before your exam, follow the instructions provided with the Prep Kit EXACTLY.
- Wear loose-fitting clothing to your appointment and bring a snack for after the scan.

## What Happens After the CT Colonography?

If images are of good quality, the IV and rectal catheter will be removed and you will be guided to a nearby washroom. At this time you might want to eat the snack you brought with you. Once you are dressed and feeling well, you are free to go home and return to normal activities. The Radiologist will send the CT report to your physician. The results will be given to you by your physician.

