

The Bottom Line

Vaughan Endoscopy Clinic (VEC) is a **state of the art** out-of-hospital endoscopy clinic providing **Screening colonoscopy and endoscopy** for the work up of mild gastrointestinal disorders. It is staffed by gastroenterologists.

In addition to the endoscopic services they will provide all the necessary **GI follow-up** and make the appropriate referrals required due to findings at the endoscopy.

The Medical Director has been an active participant in the development of **standards for out-of-hospital clinics**, all of which VEC adheres to.

Gastroenterologists:

Dr. William Appell
 Dr. David Ford
 Dr. Michael Gould
 Dr. Susan Greenbloom
 Dr. David Kreaden
 Dr. Eric Leong
 Dr. Michael Ostro
 Dr. Ted Ptak
 Dr. Lee Roth
 Dr. Jonathon Springer
 Dr. Rajiv Sethi
 Dr. Stephen Sinclair

In addition to high quality and convenient access to endoscopy, the Doctors at VEC will provide you with supplemental practical GI advice through this periodic newsletter.

Patient Safety and Quality Endoscopy

Our medical director, Dr. Michael Gould, has been involved on a National & Provincial level in development of the quality standards for endoscopy. He has been a member of many of the published endoscopy guideline processes and recently completed a 3 year term as Cancer Care Ontario's Colonoscopy Lead. He remains committed to ensuring that the highest quality endoscopy is delivered in Ontario, and ensures as Medical Director that VEC follows only the highest quality processes.

Here are some examples of how our clinic ensures patient safety and quality endoscopy.

Conscious Sedation:

At the VEC propofol is only administered by qualified anesthesiologists. These physicians closely monitor and document the patient's vital signs during the procedure. Our injection policy is a single use needle and new syringe per dose administered, thus eliminating risk of cross contamination in multi-dose vials. In addition, all patients are given IV fluids and oxygen during the procedure.

Careful Screening:

Some patients are not suitable for out-of-hospital procedures due to their higher risk of complications. The CPSO OHP/IHF criteria, for patient selection require that complicated patients will receive their endoscopies in a hospital. As such, the VEC has very strict inclusion criteria and scrutinizes all our referrals and obtains additional information from patients before booking any appointments. For example, patients on blood thinners or with a BMI ≥ 40 are not permitted at the VEC. Patients with heart problems or significant respiratory issues require review and approval by the endoscopist.



**VAUGHAN
 ENDOSCOPY
 CLINIC**

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Quality Measurements:

We routinely measure indicators such as withdrawal times, evidence of reaching the cecum, and polyp detection rates by endoscopist. Quality measurements are reviewed every 6 months by our Medical Director. In addition we calculate adenoma detection rates (ADR) since this is the best indication of colon cancer prevention. The Vaughan Endoscopy Clinic average ADR is 27%. This rate is excellent compared with published data recommending $\geq 25\%$ for men and $\geq 15\%$ for women.

Bowel Preparation:

Studies have shown that split dosing of the bowel prep, with the second dose being taken three to five hours before the procedure, gives the best outcome. The VEC uses this split dose schedule (as per all new preparation guidelines) to maximize the effectiveness of CRC screening. A cleaner bowel improves polyp and cancer detection and also correlates with a safer procedure with a lower risk of perforation.

Staff Qualifications:

All of the endoscopists at our clinic are active Gastroenterologists with hospital appointments specifically trained to perform endoscopies. Since they are GI specialists they can follow up patients for any issues that are detected during the scoping procedure. We expect that all patients will receive comprehensive GI care when required, not just screening. Additionally, our nurse manager is a full time RN with ACLS certification.

CPSO Inspection:

When the VEC underwent inspection it received an “unconditional pass” showing that we clearly demonstrated competency at or above the criteria set out by the college for physical standards, medication standards, infection control standards, quality assurance standards, and emergency preparedness. We pride ourselves in the standard operating procedures we have in place to ensure consistent patient care that is of the highest quality and safety.

The bottom line is:

The Vaughan Endoscopy Clinic puts patient safety and quality of care first at our facility.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the clinic and we would be happy to address them with you.

Our newsletters are posted on our website (www.vaughanendoscopy.com) thus your patients are able to download a copy for reference. Other GI topics of interest are published periodically.