



GASTROENTEROLOGY AND LIVER DISEASES  
DIPLOMATES AMERICAN BOARD OF INTERNAL MEDICINE  
DIPLOMATES AMERICAN BOARD OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

Shariq Afridi, M.D.; Zafar Zamir, M.D., FACG, AGAF; Zahid Baig, M.D, FACP, FACG, AGAF;  
Imran Fayyaz, M.D.; Herve Boucard, M.D

Dear Patients:

We have been seeing many of you via Telemedicine over the past few weeks and we wanted you to know that it is now time to see you in the office – safely. We will begin seeing patients in the office on Monday May 18<sup>th</sup> 2020. Over the past few weeks, we have been instituting safety protocols so that in-office patient visits can occur in the utmost possible safe environment for our patients and our staff.

We understand that you may have some questions regarding your safety while in our office. Below are the steps our office is taking to ensure the safety of our patients, our staff and our Physicians.

1. All Hamilton Gastroenterology Group providers and staff wear masks and other appropriate protective equipment and adhere to strict hand sanitizing protocols.
2. All providers and employees are screened for symptoms and fever twice daily.
3. All patients are screened for COVID-19 symptoms before and upon arriving at our office for their visit. (A copy of this handout is provided on our website and is attached to this email). A temperature check via forehead scanners will be performed upon arrival.
4. All patients are **REQUIRED** to wear a mask prior to entering the building.
5. In order to limit patient density, we request that our patients arrive at their appointment alone.
6. Our check- in and check- out process has been changed to minimize prolonged social contact. All of your demographic information will be obtained over the phone at the time you make your appointment. When you get to the office, we will need to scan your insurance card, photo ID and collect your co-pay.
7. You must have an appointment to enter our office. No visitors allowed unless authorized.
8. Patients who are sick, are under evaluation for COVID-19 infection, or fail our screening questions or temperature checks, will be rescheduled.
9. Whenever possible, we will eliminate the concept of a “waiting room”. In most cases, patients will be taken directly to the exam room.
10. If a procedure is to be scheduled, the patient will be given a handout for the preparation and will be called to set up the appointment. This is to limit the time you spend in the office.
11. Our office is thoroughly cleaned and sanitized throughout the day, adhering to local, state and federal guidelines.
12. Our office will still provide Telemedicine visits for patients who prefer to see their provider from home.



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#### **SCHEDULING/RESCHEDULING PROCEDURES:**

Unfortunately, many procedures have been cancelled over the past few weeks due to the pandemic. We are in the process of reopening our surgical center but we must adhere to strict guidelines going forward. Many patients have been rescheduled to future dates. We will do our best to accommodate everyone as quickly and as efficiently as possible. **ALL** patients **MUST** have COVID-19 testing done no more than 72 hours prior to any scheduled procedure, whether at RWJ Hamilton or our surgery center. Please note that we will only do **COVID-19 negative** patients at our Surgery Center. You will be contacted for this testing prior to your scheduled procedure. We understand that this might be an extra step you have to take in undergoing your procedure, but this is to be in compliance with CDC guidelines and several GI societies and above all for your safety. We ask for your patience and understanding as we proceed to this next step.

Please do not hesitate to call our office with any questions or concerns at 609-586-1319.

Hamilton Gastroenterology Group looks forward to seeing you soon and we thank you for trusting us with your care.