

## **FLEXIBLE SIGMOIDOSCOPY**

### ***What is it?***

Sigmoidoscopy is a visual examination of the inside of the rectum and sigmoid colon, using a lighted, flexible tube connected to a video screen for viewing. During the sigmoidoscopy, only the last 1 to 2 feet of the colon is examined. This last part of the colon, just above the rectum, is called the sigmoid colon.

### ***Reason for the examination?***

Sigmoidoscopy is performed to diagnose the cause of certain symptoms. The procedure provides information used to determine which treatment will be given, or reassurance can be provided when the exam is normal.

Some of the reasons are:

- Bleeding – hemorrhoids or a small tear at the anus, called a fissure, benign polyps, rectal or colon cancer, colitis, and inflammation.
- Diarrhea
- Pain – Hemorrhoids and fissures are some causes of pain around the anus or in the rectum. Discomfort in the lower abdomen can be caused by tumors. Diverticulosis can occur in the lower bowel.
- X-ray findings – A barium enema x-ray exam may show abnormalities that need to be confirmed or treated by sigmoidoscopy.