



Granite Peaks Endoscopy / Granite Peaks Gastroenterology

Blood Thinner Instructions Before Your Procedure

If you are scheduled for an upper endoscopy (EGD) or colonoscopy and take a blood thinner (anticoagulant) or antiplatelet medication, special planning is required to safely manage your medication before your procedure.

IMPORTANT: Do NOT stop your medication on your own

Stopping blood thinners incorrectly can increase your risk of stroke, heart attack, or blood clots. You must follow instructions from your prescribing physician (the doctor who manages this medication).

What You Need To Do

- Contact the doctor who prescribed your blood thinner
- Ask: "When should I stop my blood thinner before my endoscopy/colonoscopy?"
- Ask: "When should I restart it after the procedure?"
- Notify our office of the plan as soon as you receive it
- Do this at least 7 days before your procedure

Typical Medication Guidelines (FOR REFERENCE ONLY)

- **Eliquis (apixaban), Xarelto (rivaroxaban), Pradaxa (dabigatran):** Usually held 2–3 days before procedure
 - **Warfarin (Coumadin):** Usually held 5 days before procedure; some patients may need bridging
 - **Plavix (clopidogrel), Brilinta, Effient:** Usually held 5–7 days before procedure
 - **Aspirin:** Usually continued (do NOT stop unless instructed)
- These are general guidelines. Your plan may differ based on your medical history.

Why This Matters

Some procedures have a higher risk of bleeding (such as polyp removal), which may require temporarily stopping certain medications. Others may not require changes. Your care team will determine the safest plan for you.

Important Conditions That Require Extra Planning

- Mechanical heart valve
- Recent coronary stent (within the past year)
- History of stroke
- Blood clot (DVT/PE) within the past 3 months
- Atrial fibrillation with high stroke risk

Need Help?

If you are unable to reach your prescribing physician, please contact our office. We can assist in coordinating your care.



Failure to Complete This Step

If we do not receive clear instructions before your procedure, your procedure may need to be rescheduled for your safety.