

# CYSTOSCOPY: *What You Need to Know*

Please call our office at **920.729.7105** if you have any questions.

## WHAT IS A CYSTOSCOPY?

A cystoscopy is a procedure to look inside the bladder using a thin camera called a cystoscope. The procedure is used to diagnose, monitor and treat urinary tract problems.

## WHO MIGHT NEED A CYSTOSCOPY?

A provider might recommend a cystoscopy to:

- Check symptoms such as blood in urine, incontinence, overactive bladder or pain when urinating
- Find the cause of frequent urinary tract infections (UTIs)
- Treat urethral strictures (narrowing) or fistulas (holes that form between two areas)
- Inject medication to stop leakage
- Identify urinary tract issues related to endometriosis or other gynecologic malignancies
- Confirm the presence of a urinary tract injury

## WHAT TO EXPECT DURING A CYSTOSCOPY

The majority of cystoscopies for gynecologic conditions can be performed in an office setting. The procedure usually takes 5-15 minutes. A numbing gel will be used for most diagnostic procedures.

- What about recovery?

While you may experience blood-tinged urine or pain for the first day or two following the procedure, you should be able to get back to normal quickly and can resume regular activities as soon as you feel you're ready. Post-operative symptoms usually fade within 48 hours.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- Serious complications resulting from the procedure are rare, but can include
  - Pain when urinating
  - Infection (5-8%)
  - Bleeding

We advise patients to call their provider if they have urethral bleeding that is heavy or lasts for more than five days or if they develop persistent pain, urinary urgency or frequency, or fever.

