Highly Skilled. Thorough. Passionate. Committed. Time and time again, patients of Nina Paonessa, D.O., F.A.C.O.S., a fellowship trained colorectal surgeon, describe her with these words. It's no wonder that droves of people from Ocean County and beyond are seeking out Dr. Paonessa for their colorectal care. 

The only female colorectal surgeon in the area, Dr. Paonessa is known for her expertise and patient-centered care. She has quickly established herself as the area's “go to” colorectal surgeon. Her private practice is celebrating its grand opening in Wall, NJ, which has easy access from the Garden State Parkway (North and South).

Dr. Paonessa specializes in the evaluation and treatment of patients with colon and rectal conditions/diseases and frequently performs laparoscopic surgery for her patients. She also offers conservative and minimally invasive treatment options for many common anorectal disorders. She frequently explains to her patients that “just because I am a surgeon, doesn’t mean everyone needs a surgery. There are other options I can offer you.” Dr. Paonessa has been named Proctologist of the Year by the American College of Osteopathic Proctologists, awarded the Patient’s Choice Award and the Compassionate Doctor’s Award by Vitals.com for six consecutive years, and is on the HealthGrades Honor Roll.

Who should make an appointment with Dr. Paonessa?

People experiencing conditions or diseases including rectal pain or bleeding, colorectal cancer, fecal incontinence/pelvic floor disorders, hemorrhoidal disease, polyps, fissures, rectal prolapse, pilonidal disease, rectocelect, or inflammatory bowel disease.

How can patients best prepare for the first appointment?

Patients will be asked to provide a medical history, which is carefully reviewed in conjunction with a comprehensive examination. Dr. Paonessa will review all previous records and x-rays. Based on this, your medical history, consultation with your other doctors, and careful evaluation, she will provide a diagnosis and recommend the best medical approach. Dr. Paonessa believes in integrated healthcare and will coordinate with all of your physicians throughout the entire process to ensure the most thorough care possible.

What is Dr. Paonessa’s philosophy on patient care?

As a solo-practitioner, Dr. Paonessa believes in patient-centered care and a personalized approach. Her staff knows all of their patients by name, and they are dedicated to maintaining the integrity and dignity of their patients. All of the examination rooms are very private and they strive to make all of their patients comfortable at all times. Although medical conditions related to the colon and rectum can be an awkward topic, it is an important issue that can’t be ignored. Dr. Paonessa is sensitive to her patients’ concerns and dedicates her full attention to everyone she treats.

Once a diagnosis and surgical recommendation is made to a patient, Dr. Paonessa and her staff handle the preparation arrangements. By the time the patient leaves the office, he/she will have everything required to take the next steps towards his/her surgery. If he/she needs to see a cardiologist or urologist or needs to get an x-ray or test, the office will coordinate those appointments. Dr. Paonessa is dedicated to supporting her patients through the entire colorectal surgery process so they are never overwhelmed.

Is a referral required in order to make an appointment?

Although Dr. Paonessa gets many referrals from primary care physicians and other specialists, many patients schedule appointments on their own, without a referral, if they are experiencing any symptoms of the conditions listed above.

What insurance plans are accepted?

While most insurance plans are accepted, it’s best to check with your insurance company. Feel free to call Dr. Paonessa’s office at (732) 282-1500 for assistance.

What happens if it’s determined that surgery is recommended?

Following the initial examination, Dr. Paonessa will arrange for a consultation with the patient and their family members, as she feels it is important for every patient to have a strong support system when he/she is facing a difficult medical issue. Dr. Paonessa will explain the surgery in detail and draw a diagram to help the patient understand exactly what the surgery will entail.

What is the post-surgical recuperation like?

While this is contingent upon the type of procedure, Dr. Paonessa’s goal is for every patient to return to his/her previous level of functioning. Dr. Paonessa remains closely connected with her patients throughout the entire post-surgical process, including cancer patients, to conduct regular check-ups and post-surgical testing according to the guidelines of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons and the National Cancer Institute.

Client Testimonials...

"As an 80-year-old man that spent years working in the medical field, I can say without hesitation that I have never met a more dedicated doctor in my entire life. Dr. Paonessa is an outstanding surgeon and she literally saved my life when I was diagnosed with colon cancer. She even called me at home on a weekend after I was discharged to see how I was doing. She is a loving and caring person and if I had to undergo surgery again, Dr. Paonessa is the doctor I would choose." – Gordon F.