



## VALLARTA UNIFIED HEALTH SOLUTIONS

Medical Services Coordinator

### What is Gastroenterologist?

A gastrointestinal (GI) doctor, or gastroenterologist, is a medical specialist focused on diagnosing, treating, and managing conditions related to the digestive system. The digestive system includes the esophagus, stomach, intestines, liver, pancreas, and gallbladder.

### What can a gastroenterologist diagnose and treat?

A gastroenterologist can diagnose digestive disorders. Digestive disorders are conditions that affect the gastrointestinal (GI) tract, which is responsible for digesting food, absorbing nutrients, and expelling waste. These disorders can range from mild issues like indigestion to more serious chronic diseases that affect different parts of the digestive system. These diseases include ulcers, irritable bowel syndrome, gallstones, pancreatitis, and colorectal cancer, as well as others.

### What procedures can a gastroenterologist perform?

#### 1. Endoscopy

A doctor uses a specialized instrument called an endoscope to examine the esophagus, stomach, and the beginning of the small intestine.

#### 2. Colonoscopy

The doctor uses an endoscope to inspect the large intestines (colon), for abnormalities like polyps or cancer.

### 3. Biopsy

Taking small tissue samples from the digestive tract for lab analysis to detect diseases like cancer, celiac disease, or infections.

### 4. Polypectomy

Removal of polyps (growths) found during a colonoscopy or other endoscopic procedures.

### 5. ERCP

A procedure to examine the bile ducts and pancreatic ducts using an endoscope and contrast dye.

### 6. Liver Biopsy

Taking a small sample of liver tissue for examination to diagnose liver diseases.