Heartburn. Constipation. Diarrhea. Symptoms that hit you in the gut. Are they a minor annoyance—or a sign that something more serious is wrong? It’s not always easy to tell.

When you have digestive system problems that just won’t go away, you want expert care. You’ll find it at Northwest Community Hospital’s Gastroenterology Center.

What can we do for you?
We can find out what those symptoms really mean.

A growing number of Americans suffer from problems of the gastrointestinal (GI) system—the esophagus, stomach, small and large intestines, liver, gallbladder and pancreas.

GI problems may come and go. Sometimes they’re simply a reaction to something you ate. But even minor problems can lead to more serious disease, unless they’re diagnosed and treated early.

If you have any of these symptoms, it’s time to make an appointment with your doctor or a GI specialist:

- An unexplained change in bowel habits
- Chronic diarrhea or constipation
- Persistent blood in your stool
- Rectal bleeding
- Persistent abdominal pain
- Unexpected weight loss
- Chronic tiredness or sudden fatigue

Once your problem is identified, your physician can discuss treatment options to put you on the road to recovery. And Northwest Community Hospital will support you every step of the way.
We can give you the most skilled doctors and nurses.

At our GI Center you’ll find nationally recognized physicians working with a staff of highly skilled nurses and technologists. They work in teams that specialize in specific GI procedures, so you get experience that makes a difference to you. Together these teams perform more than 12,000 GI procedures a year.

Our expertise is widely recognized. Doctors, nurses and technicians from across the country come to NCH to learn advanced GI procedures. To make that education accessible to even more professionals, we’ve built a state-of-the-art teaching gallery that can transmit live images to clinicians around the world.

NCH has the first and only teaching gallery for GI procedures in Illinois.
We can treat the most complex GI problems.

You want advanced, high-quality medical care—and you don’t want the stress of going downtown to get it. That’s why NCH is here for you.

As a Regional Specialty Service, our GI Center is raising the standards for the prevention, early detection and treatment of digestive disorders. Patients come to NCH from all over the Midwest seeking care for serious gastrointestinal problems.

We offer a full range of procedures, from routine and virtual colonoscopies to procedures normally found only at a university medical center. For example:

- A new, non-surgical treatment to reduce a patient’s risk of developing esophageal cancer, a growing threat across the U.S.
- Non-surgical treatment of diseases of the pancreas and bile duct
- Advanced procedures to diagnose and stage cancers of the GI tract
- Minimally invasive treatment of superficial GI cancers
At the GI Center, we’ve created the most technologically advanced facility in Illinois—designed not just for doctors but for you.

New digital imaging and less-invasive technologies mean you get faster, more accurate diagnoses…safer, more comfortable procedures…and quicker recovery, so you can get back to your regular activities.

NCH was among the first hospitals in the area to introduce advanced technologies like these:

-A tiny, pill-sized camera that, when swallowed, painlessly transmits images from the digestive tract

-A capsule that monitors and reports acid levels in the esophagus without a catheter

-A safer, less-invasive alternative to exploratory surgery for removing tissue samples

We also offer virtual colonoscopy screenings for colon cancer. This new use of CT technology is less invasive than traditional colonoscopy and has been shown to be an effective first step for some patients.

We can give you safer, more accurate, more comfortable care.
We can give you the attention you deserve.

Our GI Center is more than a state-of-the-art specialty service. It’s part of NCH—with the caring environment, easy access and attentive, personalized service you expect from your community hospital.

You’ll find many special touches in our GI Center. Like the warm gown and blanket we have waiting for you. The comfortable family waiting room. The private areas for preparation and recovery—where family can join you, if you wish. We even offer early morning and weekend appointments for your convenience.

Most important, you’ll find a caring, compassionate staff—professionals who explain your procedure in language you can understand, and specialized nurses who guide and support you through complex care.
We can link you to the information you need...and the doctor you’re looking for.

You’ll find more information about NCH and our GI Center on our website, www.nch.org. You can also use our website to look up general information about digestive disorders and treatments.

Looking for a doctor? We can help you find a GI specialist or other physician who’s right for you. Go to www.nch.org/doctor. Or call 847.618.4YOU (4968) weekdays, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.