Colorectal Cancer Screening

Which test should you get?

Average risk

If you’ve **never** had colorectal polyps or cancer...

**Begin screening at age 50**

- *Note:* Screening is suggested beginning at age 45 for African Americans. Some experts recommend screening beginning at age 45 for all people at average risk.*

**Recommended Tests:**

- **Preferred Tests**
  - Colonoscopy every 10 years*
  - Annual Fecal Immunochemical Test

- **Other Options**
  - FIT-fecal DNA (Cologuard®) every 3 years
  - CT colonography every 5 years
  - Flexible sigmoidoscopy every 5-10 years

*Colonoscopy is the **best** test for finding precancerous polyps.
*Colonoscopy is the **only** test that allows for removal of precancerous polyps during the exam.
*Colonoscopy is the **only** test recommended at 10 year intervals.
*When any test other than colonoscopy is used and is positive, a colonoscopy must be performed to follow up.

Family history

If you have a **family history** of colon polyps or cancer...

**Colonoscopy may be recommended at age 40 or younger**

**Recommended Tests:**

- Colonoscopy is the **only** test recommended for many individuals with a family history of colon polyps or colon cancer

  Depending upon the details of your family history, colonoscopy may be recommended beginning at age 40 or younger

  **Talk to your doctor about the details of your family history**

History of colon polyps or cancer

If you’ve **ever had** colorectal polyps or cancer...

**Further follow-up is done with colonoscopy**

**Recommended Tests:**

- Colonoscopy is the **only** test established as safe and effective for polyp follow-up

  Your colonoscopy doctor will recommend how often you should repeat colonoscopy based on:
  - The number and size of your precancerous polyps
  - The type of precancerous polyps as reported by the pathologist
  - How your polyps were removed
  - Or, if you have had colon cancer, the details of your cancer diagnosis and treatment

For more information, visit [www.Screen4ColonCancer.org](http://www.Screen4ColonCancer.org)

This information is based on the document: Colorectal cancer screening: Recommendations for physicians and patients from the U.S. Multi-Society Task Force on Colorectal Cancer, July 2017

*The American Cancer Society recommends screening beginning at age 45 for people at average risk for CRC. American Cancer Society Guideline for Colorectal Cancer Screening, May 2018*