

Types of Screening Tests

Several different screening tests can be used to test for polyps or colorectal cancer. Each can be used alone. Sometimes they are used in combination with each other.

Fecal Occult Blood Test or Stool Test - A test you do at home using a test kit you get from your health care provider. You put stool samples on test cards and return the cards to the doctor or a lab. This test checks for occult (hidden) blood in the stool.

Flexible Sigmoidoscopy - A test in which the doctor puts a short, thin, flexible, lighted tube into your rectum. The doctor checks for polyps or cancer in the rectum and lower third of the colon. Sometimes this test is used in combination with the fecal occult blood test.

Colonoscopy - This test is similar to flexible sigmoidoscopy, except the doctor uses a longer, thin, flexible, lighted tube to check for polyps or cancer in the rectum and the entire colon. During the test, the doctor can find and remove most polyps and some cancers.

Double Contrast Barium Enema - A test in which you are given an enema with a liquid called barium. The doctor takes x-rays of your colon. The barium allows the doctor to see the outline of your colon to check for polyps or other abnormalities.

For more information, visit
www.cdc.gov/screenforlife

or call

1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636).

For TTY, call **1-888-232-6348.**

To find out about Medicare coverage, call

1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).



Colorectal Cancer Screening

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