

# COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING: WHICH TEST IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Did you know colon cancer screenings are recommended for people 45 years of age or older?

## COLONOSCOPY



Available to insured and uninsured patients

**How is this test done?** The provider will put a soft tube with a tiny camera in your colon/large intestine.

**How often is this screening needed?** Every 10 years

**Where is it done?** Hospital or medical clinic

**Pre-Test:** You will take a bowel preparation before the test, to empty the colon. It causes diarrhea (watery stool).

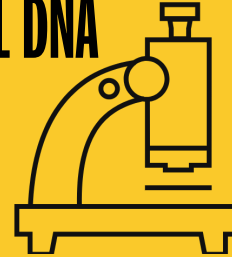
**How long does this test take?** 30-60 minutes

**When will I get results?** In 2 weeks

**Things to consider:** You will be in a comfortable sleep like state and need to plan for a day of recovery. Someone will need to assist you home.

**Why should I choose this test?** It is the most accurate test and the medical provider can take out polyps at the same time. After the test there's a small risk of bleeding, infection, tearing, ulcers, or injury to the colon.

## MULTI-TARGETED STOOL DNA (COLOGUARD)



Covered by insurance or available through self-pay. Not recommended for patients with a history of colon cancer, polyps, or bowel disease.

**How is this test done?** This do-it-yourself kit will be shipped to your home. You will collect a stool sample and mail it back to the lab. Your stool will be tested for blood and DNA changes.

**How often is this screening needed?** Every 3 years.

**Where is it done?** At home.

**Pre-Test:** none

**How long does this test take?** 10 minutes

**When will I get results?** 2 weeks

**How does it work?** The lab checks stool for blood and abnormal DNA that are caused from polyps or cancer.

**Things to consider:** If the test is positive, you will need a colonoscopy.

**Why should I choose this test?** This test does not involve an object entering into your body and it does not require a bowel preparation. There are no risks and no recovery time.

## FECAL IMMUNOCHEMICAL TEST (FIT)



Available for insured and uninsured patients. Not recommended for patients with a history of colon cancer, polyps, or bowel disease.

**How is this test done?** Your stool is placed on a special card and tested for blood.

**How often is this screening needed?** Once a year

**Where is it done?** At home

**Pre-Test:** none

**How long does this test take?** 5 minutes

**When will I get results?** Same day

**How does it work?** It checks stool for blood

**Things to consider:** If the test is positive, you will need a colonoscopy.

**Why should I choose this test?** This test does not involve an object entering into your body and it does not require a bowel preparation. There are no risks and no recovery time.

Talk with your medical provider about which colon cancer screening test is right for you! Learn more at [callen-lorde.org/coloncancer](https://callen-lorde.org/coloncancer)

American Cancer Society Guideline for Colorectal Cancer Screening: A Summary for Clinicians. (2018). Retrieved from [cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/cancer-control/en/booklets-flyers/summary-for-clinicia](https://cancer.org/content/dam/cancer-org/cancer-control/en/booklets-flyers/summary-for-clinicia)