



Preventive vs Diagnostic Services Fact Sheet

As you plan your screening, it is important to understand the difference between preventive tests and diagnostic tests. Your insurance coverage may be different depending on how the test is classified.

The American Cancer Society found convincing evidence that screening for colorectal cancer in adults aged 45 to 75 years reduces colorectal cancer mortality.¹

Preventive Screening vs Diagnostic Testing Understanding the Difference and Its Impact on Coverage



Preventive Screening

A test (eg, fecal occult blood test, fecal immunochemical test, or colonoscopy) performed on a patient who does not have symptoms but who is in a group at risk for colon cancer, such as²:

- Between the ages of 45 and 75¹
- Has a family history of colon cancer¹

With few exceptions, health care plans cover screenings with no out-of-pocket cost to you.³



Diagnostic Testing

A colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy to diagnose a health condition in response to symptoms, such as³:

- Bleeding or irregularity
- Positive result of a preventive screening

You may have to pay a co-pay, coinsurance, or deductible.³

Talk to your health care provider and insurance company today. Learn what screening is right for you, what services are covered under your plan, and what your cost may be. Then, schedule your colon cancer screening.

To learn more about colorectal cancer and screening, visit

www.LoveYourColon.org

References: **1.** Wolf AM, Fontham ET, Church TR, et al. Colorectal cancer screening for average-risk adults: 2018 guideline update from the American Cancer Society [published online ahead of print May 29, 2018]. *CA Cancer J Clin.* 2018. doi: 10.3322/caac.21457. **2.** Screening for colorectal cancer: US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement. *JAMA.* 2016;315(23):2564-2575. **3.** Colorectal cancer screening: insurance coverage. American Cancer Society website. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/colon-rectal-cancer/detection-diagnosis-staging/screening-coverage-laws.html>. Accessed November 3, 2017.