

Get tested. It could save your life.

Colon Cancer Screening Options

Colorectal cancer is one of the most common cancers for both men and women. But you can catch it early – or even prevent it – by staying up to date with your screenings.

The American Cancer Society recommends regular screening for colorectal cancer starting at age 45, but some insurance companies don't cover it until age 50. People whose family members have had colorectal cancer or those with other risk factors can talk with their doctors about beginning screenings earlier.

Did you know colonoscopies aren't your only option? There are also less-invasive choices. Check out the information below and talk with your doctor about which type of screening is best for you. Carle offers all three.

	Colonoscopy	FIT (Fecal Immunochemical Test)	Cologuard®
Type of Screening	Procedure at a hospital or outpatient center.	At-home test.	At-home test.
What It Is	A tube with a tiny camera is placed into your rectum, to look at your entire colon for cancerous and precancerous polyps.	Test that looks for hidden blood in your feces. You do the simple test at home and mail the test card to the lab.	Test that looks for blood or certain DNA markers in your feces. You mail a stool sample to the lab.
Who It's Good For	It's a great option for most people, and the best option for those at higher risk for colon cancer. If polyps are found on the exam, they can usually be treated at the same time.	Great option for people at average risk who don't want a colonoscopy. Not for those with a personal or family history of colon cancer or polyps.	Great option for people at average risk who don't want a colonoscopy. Not for those with a personal or family history of colon cancer or polyps.
How Often To Get It	Every 10 years, or based on your personal history of polyps or family history of colon cancer.	Every year.	Every three years.
Risks or Negatives	Complications are rare, but can include bleeding or bowel wall injury.	No physical risks. If you test positive, you'll need to have a colonoscopy.	No physical risks. If you test positive, you'll need to have a colonoscopy.
How Much It Costs*	Highest cost, but your copay varies depending on your insurance.	Lowest cost, but your copay varies depending on your insurance.	Mid-range cost, but your copay varies depending on your insurance.

*Ask your health plan for more detailed information on coverage and costs. Some companies, including Health Alliance™, cover all three screening types in many of their plans. Certain insurance plans may require copays if additional diagnostic tests are required.

Take action against this preventable cancer – make plans today to get screened.



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ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-217-383-2543. UWAGA: Jeżeli mówisz po polsku, możesz skorzystać z bezpłatnej pomocy językowej. Zadzwoń pod numer 1-217-326-0340.