

be
well.

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Screening for Colon and Rectal Cancer

Colorectal cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer death nationwide, but it can usually be cured when caught early. Screening tests such as a colonoscopy can save lives by catching problems before symptoms even appear, when treatments might work best.

No matter how busy you feel, if you're age 50 or older—or even younger if you're at high risk—you should make time to talk with your doctor about getting screened for colorectal cancer.

Colorectal cancer is cancer of the colon or rectum, both of which are part of the large intestine. Scientists don't yet know what causes colorectal cancer, but certain factors including smoking, excess weight, or having three or more alcoholic drinks per day raises your risk.

The three recommended tests for colorectal cancer are colonoscopy, flexible sigmoidoscopy, and home stool tests.

Talk with a healthcare provider about when you should begin screening for colorectal cancer and, if so, which test(s) to get. Check with your health insurance company to see if screening costs are covered (they usually are).



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