

## COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING



Hello,

My name is Al Castellanos and I am a licensed insurance agent. Do you know what disease prevention is and why it's important? Well I am here to give you that information. Medicare pays for many preventive services to keep you healthy. These preventive services can find health problems early, when treatment works best, and can keep you from getting certain diseases.

**Colorectal Cancer Screening** is one of the preventive services that is covered by Medicare.

### **What is it?**

Medicare covers colorectal cancer screening tests to help find pre-cancerous polyps (growths in the colon), so polyps can be removed before they become cancerous and to help find colorectal cancer at an early stage when treatment works best.

### **Risk Factors:**

Risk for colorectal cancer increases with age. It's important to continue with screenings, even if you were screened before you had Medicare. Your risk for colorectal cancer increases if any of these are true:

- You've had colorectal cancer before.
- You have a close relative who had colorectal polyps or colorectal cancer.
- You have a history of polyps.
- You have inflammatory bowel disease (like ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease).

### **Who's covered?**

All people with Medicare 50 and older, but there's no minimum age for having a covered screening colonoscopy.

### **How often is it covered?**

- **Screening fecal occult sigmoidoscopy** – Once every 12 months for people 50 or older.
- **Screening flexible sigmoidoscopy** – Once every 48 months after the last flexible sigmoidoscopy or barium enema, or 120 months after a previous screening colonoscopy.

- **Screening colonoscopy** – Once every 120 months (high risk every 24 months), or 48 months after a previous flexible sigmoidoscopy.
- **Screening barium enema** – Once every 48 months (high risk every 24 months) when used instead of sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy.
- **Multi-target stool DNA test** – Once every 3 years if you meet certain conditions.

#### **Your cost if you have Original Medicare**

You pay nothing for the fecal occult blood test, if you get a written referral from your doctor, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist. You pay nothing for the flexible sigmoidoscopy or screening colonoscopy if your doctor accepts assignment.

If you have any questions regarding this exam or any of the other Preventive Service exams covered by Medicare, please contact me at (281) 642-4082 or at [alcastellanos@prinsuco.com](mailto:alcastellanos@prinsuco.com).