



[cancer.org](http://cancer.org) | 1.800.227.2345

## Medicare Coverage for Cancer Prevention and Early Detection

Medicare pays for certain preventive health care services and screening tests used to help find cancer before you have signs or symptoms.

Talk to your health care provider about your cancer risk and what cancer screening tests you might need. See [The American Cancer Society Guidelines for the Early Detection of Cancer](#)<sup>1</sup> for more information.

- [Breast](#)
- [Cervical](#)
- [Colorectal](#)
- [Lung](#)
- [Prostate](#)
- [Help quitting tobacco](#)

### [Questions about health insurance?](#)<sup>2</sup>

Contact the ACS cancer helpline to get answers and information.

### [Search for resources](#)<sup>3</sup>

Find free or low-cost resources from ACS and other organizations.

**Unless otherwise noted, you pay nothing for these tests under Medicare coverage IF your doctor accepts the Medicare-approved amount as full payment.**

Ask your doctor if they are a Medicare provider before you schedule your appointment.

### **Breast**



\*If you have a non-invasive stool-based screening test (fecal occult blood test or multi-target stool DNA test) and have an abnormal result, you are also covered for a follow-up colonoscopy.

\*\*If your doctor finds and removes a lesion or growth during your flexible sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy, you pay 15% of the Medicare-approved amount for your doctors' services. In a hospital outpatient setting or ambulatory surgical center, you also pay the facility a 15% coinsurance. In these cases, the Part B deductible doesn't apply.

## Lung

People **ages 50 to 77** who **currently smoke, have quit in the last 15 years, or have a tobacco smoking history of at least 20 pack years** (average 1 pack per day for 20 years): One low-dose CT scan every year

To be eligible for a low-dose CT scan for lung cancer screening, you must also have an order from your doctor and have NO signs or symptoms of lung cancer.

## Prostate

For men **ages 50 and older**:

- One digital rectal exam\* (DRE) every 12 months; and
- One prostate specific antigen (PSA) blood test every 12 months

\* For the digital rectal exam (DRE), you pay 20% of the Medicare-approved amount of a yearly DRE and doctor services, after your Part B deductible is met. In a hospital outpatient setting, you also pay a hospital visit copay.

## Help quitting tobacco

If you use tobacco: Up to 8 smoking and tobacco cessation counseling sessions in a 12-month period.

## Hyperlinks

1. [www.cancer.org/cancer/screening/american-cancer-society-guidelines-for-the-early-detection-of-cancer.html](http://www.cancer.org/cancer/screening/american-cancer-society-guidelines-for-the-early-detection-of-cancer.html)
2. [www.cancer.org/about-us/what-we-do/providing-support.html](http://www.cancer.org/about-us/what-we-do/providing-support.html)
3. [www.cancer.org/support-programs-and-services/resource-search.html](http://www.cancer.org/support-programs-and-services/resource-search.html)

## References

Medicare.gov. Are you up to date on your preventive services? Accessed July 27, 2023. <https://www.medicare.gov/publications/11420-Preventive-Services-Checklist.pdf>.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Medicare preventive services. Accessed July 27, 2023. [https://www.cms.gov/medicare/prevention/preventiongeninfo/medicare-preventive-services/mps-quickreferencechart-1.html#CERV\\_CAN](https://www.cms.gov/medicare/prevention/preventiongeninfo/medicare-preventive-services/mps-quickreferencechart-1.html#CERV_CAN).

Medicare.gov. Preventive & screening services. Published 2020. Accessed July 27, 2023. <https://www.medicare.gov/coverage/preventive-screening-services>.

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