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About one-third of eligible adults in the United States have never been screened for colorectal cancer, and offering choice in colorectal cancer screening strategies may increase screening uptake.

United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) Final Recommendation Statement – Colorectal Cancer Screening

The USPSTF recommends screening for colorectal cancer starting at age 50 years and continuing until age 75 years.

Colorectal cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer death in the United States. In 2016, an estimated 134,000 persons will be diagnosed with the disease, and about 49,000 will die from it. In Michigan, it is estimated that 4,570 people will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer while 1,640 will die from the disease in 2016. Colorectal cancer is most frequently diagnosed among adults aged 65 to 74 years.

The USPSTF found convincing evidence that screening for colorectal cancer with several different methods can accurately detect early-stage colorectal cancer and adenomatous polyps.

The USPSTF also found convincing evidence that screening for colorectal cancer in adults aged 50 to 75 years reduces colorectal cancer mortality. The USPSTF found no head-to-head studies demonstrating that any of the screening strategies it considered are more effective than others, although the tests have varying levels of evidence supporting their effectiveness, as well as different strengths and limitations. About one-third of eligible adults in the United States have never been screened for colorectal cancer, and offering choice in colorectal cancer screening strategies may increase screening uptake.

See the final recommendation statement for additional information.
Screening for Colorectal Cancer – US Preventive Services Task Force

This JAMA article summarizes the US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement on Screening for Colorectal Cancer. It includes the recommendations and evidence, rationale, clinical considerations (including screening tests), other considerations, and discussion.

JAMA, Clinical Review and Education, June 21, 2016, Vol 315, Number 23

Colon Cancer Screening: Five Things To Know

1. Getting tested – in any variety of ways – is a good thing. Following its review of all the available medical evidence, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) — an independent blue-ribbon panel of medical experts — updated its colorectal cancer screening guidelines last week. The panel gave an "A" rating to screening all adults between ages 50 to 75 years at average risk of the disease, saying the benefits are "substantial."

Noting that not enough Americans are getting screened, the panel essentially said the best test is the one that patients will take: “The goal is to maximize the total number of persons who are screened because that will have the largest effect on reducing colorectal cancer deaths.”

2. Two less-invasive tests (virtual colonoscopies or computed tomography (CT) colonography and Cologuard) may qualify for free preventive screening.

3. Don’t expect all insurers to drop co-pays on the new tests right away

4. The USPSTF did not rank (pick favorites) the various colorectal cancer screening tests.

5. You might still have a copayment.

See the article for more information and detail.

Source: Kaiser Health News, Julie Appleby, June 24, 2016