

What is Colorectal Cancer Screening?

Screening is used to look for any evidence of colon cancer in normal population without any symptoms and/or signs.

Age criteria:

1. Adults aged **40-75 years**: Eligible for colorectal cancer screening services.
2. Adults aged **76 to 85 years**: The decision to be taken after specialist consultation.

How the Screening is done:

1. **Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT)** – It is a non-invasive test where presence of any evidence of blood is checked in person's stool sample.
 - FIT only detects human blood from the intestines. Medicines and food do not interfere with the test.
 - Positive test can be an early sign of cancer. The FIT test must be repeated if results are unclear or spoilt.
 - For a positive test result you will be scheduled for follow-up colonoscopy within 31 days of referral.
2. **Colonoscopy**. It is an invasive procedure done by Endoscopist. It is done under mild sedation for which American Society of Anesthesiologists guidelines are followed.

Colorectal Cancer Screening Benefits:

1. Detecting and treatment of colon cancer at very early stage where significant treatment is possible.
2. Lower the number of people who develop the spread of cancer to other organs.
3. Colorectal cancer can often be prevented through regular screening, which can find polyps before they become cancerous.

Frequency of screening:

1. If first Screening colonoscopy is normal, then:
 - Colonoscopy screening, every 10 years; or
 - Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) every year (annually).
2. If first Screening colonoscopy is abnormal, then:
 - Consult specialists and follow his advice.

Screening outcomes and referrals:

1. At the end of the screening procedure, in case of positive outcome, you will receive a copy of the DOH e-Cancer Screening Referral Form
2. The time between completion of a screening test and receipt of results by the participant will be less than 15 working days.