

Colorectal cancer is a type of cancer that occurs in the colon or rectum. It's the second-leading cause of death from cancer for Americans, behind lung cancer. However, when diagnosed early, **90% of colorectal cancers are completely curable.**

© 2007 About, Inc.
About is part of the New
York Times Company.

Sources:

1. *Action Plan on Colorectal Cancer for the State of Texas: Financial and Policy Issues: Costs and Cost Effectiveness.* Texas Cancer Data Center. 2 Jun. 2006. 28 Jan. 2007.
<<http://www.tcc.state.tx.us/colonplan/financial.html>>.
2. *Frequently Asked Questions About Colon Cancer.* American Cancer Society. 28 Jan. 2007.
<http://www.cancer.org/docroot/cri/content/CRI_2_6x_Frequently_Asked_Questions_About_Colon_Cancer.asp>.
3. *Medicaid Program: General Information: Overview.* Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. 25 Apr. 2006. 28 Jan. 2007
<<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicaidGenInfo>>.
4. *Press Release: Chances of Having Health Insurance Increase, Reversing 12-Year Trend, Census Bureau Says.* U.S. Census Bureau. 28 Sep. 2000. 28 Jan. 2007 <<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2000/cb00-160.html>>.
5. *Screening for Life: Tests for Breast, Cervical and Colorectal Cancer.* Delaware Health and Social Services. 3 Nov. 2006. 28 Jan. 2007
<<http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/dpc/sfl.html>>.

About Colon Cancer

Donna Myers
Your Guide to Colon Cancer
<http://coloncancer.about.com>
e-mail: coloncancer.guide@about.com



**Colon Cancer
Screening for
the Uninsured**

**A free informational
brochure provided by
About Colon Cancer**

<http://coloncancer.about.com>



Colon Cancer Screening for the Uninsured

Even though most colon cancer is completely curable if diagnosed early, it's still the second-leading

cause of cancer deaths in the United States. That's why screening is so important. Did you know that getting a colonoscopy can reduce the average person's risk of dying from colon cancer by 90%? *Ninety percent!* Pretty convincing, right? But what if you're uninsured?

Out-of-Pocket Price

More than 42 million Americans are uninsured. If you have to pay for screening yourself, knowing the price becomes a lot more important. Here are the basics:

Fecal occult blood test:	\$10 - \$25
Sigmoidoscopy:	\$150 - \$300
Barium enema:	\$250 - \$500
Virtual colonoscopy:	\$500 - \$900
Colonoscopy:	\$800 - \$2,000

It's a good idea to check with local healthcare providers to see what tests they offer, how much they charge, and if they offer any payment plans.

Medicaid Assistance

Medicaid is a federal healthcare program administered by individual states. States are authorized to cover colon cancer screening, but each gets to decide what kind of screening it'll cover and under what circumstances.

A federal web site (GovBenefits.gov) can help you find and determine your eligibility for state-administered programs like Medicaid.

Local Screening Programs

Sometimes mobile screening centers visit communities and offer free cancer screening. Your local health department may do the same or offer free screening days on-site at the hospital.

Two good ways to find local health resources are to search the yellow pages online (yp.yahoo.com) or check the blue pages in your phone book. (The blue pages provide organizational and contact information for state and local government entities.)

Additional Resources

The CDC sponsors a "Screening for Life" program that reimburses participating health departments for cancer screening. If you contact your state or local health department, you might want to ask if they participate.

BenefitsCheckUp.org is a web site that offers an online questionnaire that may help you identify private or government programs to help with prescription drug and other healthcare issues.

For more information about colon cancer prevention, causes, symptoms, screening, and treatment, please visit:

<http://coloncancer.about.com>

Donna Myers
Your Guide to Colon Cancer
<http://coloncancer.about.com>
e-mail: coloncancer.guide@about.com

About