Questions to ask your doctor about colon cancer screening

1. I just turned 50 years old. Should I be tested for colorectal polyps or colorectal cancer?

2. I don’t have any family history of colorectal cancer or of colorectal polyps. Should I still be tested?

3. My medical history and/or family history puts me at an increased risk for colorectal cancer. Should I be tested at a younger age and more often?

4. I understand there are a number of screening tests available. Would you tell me about each of these tests and the risks and benefits associated with each of them?

5. I don’t know which screening test is appropriate for me now. Which test do you recommend and why?

6. Will you perform the test? If not, who will?

7. How should I prepare for the test? Should I change my diet or medications?

8. Will I be awake or asleep during the test?

9. What will happen during the test?

10. Will the test hurt?

11. Should I have someone with me on the day of the test?

12. When and how will I learn the results of the test?

13. What kind of follow-up care will I need if the tests show a problem?

14. If the tests show nothing wrong, when should I be tested again?

15. What is the cost of these tests? Will my insurance cover the cost?

ColonCancerCoalition.org