

## What is the Cologuard test?

Cologuard is a screening test that uses a stool sample to detect colorectal cancer and some pre-cancer polyps. Every day your colon sheds cells that line the colon. Your stool picks up those cells as it passes through your colon. Cologuard can detect the DNA and blood released from those cells and determine if you have abnormal cells and/or blood in your stool.

## How is this test done?

The Cologuard lab will send you a collection kit that you will use to collect your stool sample (your bowel movement). The kit includes a patient guide with instructions on how to collect your stool. After collecting your stool you will send the kit back to the Cologuard lab using the prepaid address label that came in your kit. The lab will test your stool and sample and send the results to your doctor. Your doctor will contact you with the test results.



Photo provided by Shawn Harper,  
Exact Sciences

Please note the following:

- You need to be able to sit down on, and get up off the toilet to complete the test.
- The sample container is difficult to open and must be closed tightly once it has been used.
- Follow the directions to return the test to the company. Use the prepaid shipping label that came with your test.

## **Will my insurance pay for this test?**

Patients with Traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage plans do not have any co-pays or deductible amounts. If you have any other type of insurance (including Medicaid), you should contact your insurance company for approval and copay information **before** returning your stool sample for testing.

## **How do I ask my insurance company if they will pay for the Cologuard test?**

Contact customer service at your insurance company through the phone number listed on the back of your insurance card. You will need to give them the following information:

- Your doctor has recommended that you have a screening test for colorectal cancer.
- Based on a discussion with your doctor you would like to do the stool collection Cologuard test.
- Cologuard is a stool DNA with fecal hemoglobin immunoassay(im·mu·no·as·say) screen for colorectal cancer.
- The test is billed under CPT code: 81528
- If approved, ask if you will be responsible for a co-pay and how much it will be.
- Ask if you or your doctor needs to file any paperwork before you use the test.

## **If my insurance doesn't pay for the test, is there a cost?**

Depending on your insurer and specific plan, your out-of-pocket cost for the Cologuard test could range from \$0.00 to \$649.00. The company will bill your insurance company after test is processed and the results are sent to your doctor. If your insurer does not pay in full, the remaining balance will be your responsibility.

Using your smartphone camera, hover over the QR codes to view the following websites:



English



Spanish

**Why Screen:  
Screening Has Meaning**



English/Spanish

**How to Use  
Cologuard**

## Questions?

Call Exact Sciences with questions at 1-844-870-8870

<http://www.cologuardtest.com/insurance>

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