

## **Cologuard® Screening for Colorectal Cancer FAQs Sheet**

### **Screening Overview**

A screening test is used to look for a disease when a person does not have symptoms. When a person has symptoms, diagnostic tests are used to find out the cause of the symptoms.

Several screening tests can be used to find polyps or colorectal cancer. It is important to know that if your test result is positive or abnormal on some screening tests (stool tests, flexible sigmoidoscopy, and computed tomography colonography), a colonoscopy test is needed to complete the screening process.

### **What is colon cancer and why is screening important?**

According to the American Cancer Society, colon cancer is an abnormal growth of cells in the colon or rectum that can invade nearby tissues or spread to other organs. Normally, colon cancer starts as a polyp (small growth) that gets larger over time. While not all polyps are cancerous, some do turn into cancer, which is why getting screened is so important.

### **What is Cologuard®?**

Cologuard® by EXACT SCIENCES, is an FDA-approved, non-invasive, at-home colon cancer screening test. Cologuard® is intended to screen adults 45 and older at average risk for colon cancer.

### **How does Cologuard® work?**

Your Cologuard® test kit comes with easy-to-follow, step-by-step sample-collection instructions. Cologuard® uses advanced stool technology to detect the DNA and blood cells released from altered cells and can detect both precancer and cancer.

### **What does a positive result mean?**

A positive Cologuard® test result is not a cancer diagnosis. A positive result means the test detected altered DNA and/or blood that could be caused by a precancerous polyp or colon cancer. If you receive a positive result, a screening colonoscopy will be needed. Please contact your primary care doctor about getting a colonoscopy, and any other next steps.

### **Is Cologuard® covered by insurance?**

Cologuard® is covered by Medicare, Medicaid, and most major insurers. Most insured patients pay \$0.00\*.

\*Rate of coverage varies by state and region. Coverage rate only applies to Cologuard® screening population.

### **Does insurance cover colonoscopy after Cologuard®?**

As of 2023, Medicare and commercial plans cover the out-of-pocket cost for a colonoscopy following a positive Cologuard® result. Exceptions for coverage may apply; please confirm with your insurer. They are the best source of information on your plan and coverage.

### **How do I get my screening results?**

It typically takes under two weeks from the date you ship back your Cologuard® kit to get your result. You may access your results on-line at

<https://patient.exactsciences.com/login>

Also, Cologuard® will send the results to your primary care provider so you can discuss your results with them.

### **How can I get Cologuard®?**

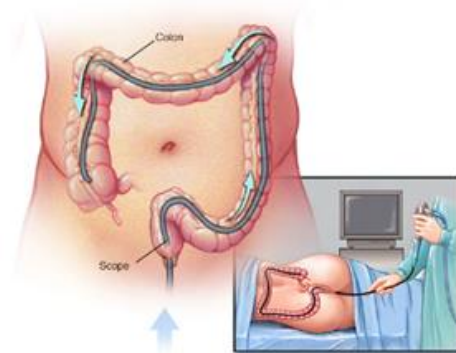
Cologuard® is available in all US states. If you have more specific questions, please contact them at 1-844-870-8870.

### **What is a Colonoscopy?**

A colonoscopy is an exam used to look for changes in the large intestine (colon) and rectum. During a colonoscopy, a long, flexible tube (colonoscope) is inserted into the rectum. A tiny video camera at the tip of the tube allows the doctor to view the inside of the entire colon.

If necessary, polyps or other types of abnormal tissue can be removed through the scope during a colonoscopy.

Tissue samples (biopsies) can be taken during a colonoscopy. Also, a colonoscopy is used as a follow-up test if anything unusual is found during one of the other screening tests.



### **How do I schedule my colonoscopy?**

Call **612-624-9709, option 2** to schedule.