

Reasons to get checked for Colorectal Cancer

You are Alaska Native.

Alaska Native people are twice as likely to get colorectal cancer compared to Alaska Whites.

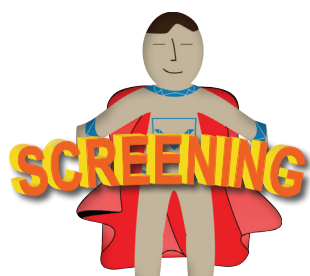


You are 40 years or older.

Over 90% of men and women who get colorectal cancer are over the age of 50. Alaska Native people should start screening at age 40. A screening is a test where they look for cancer.

A family member has had colorectal cancer.

You are more likely to get colorectal cancer if a family member has had it. Ask your family about their health history. Talk to your provider about when you should start colorectal cancer screening.

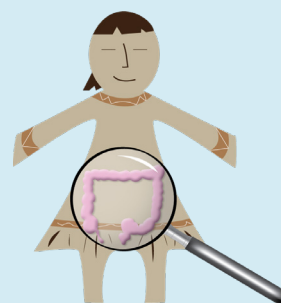


Colorectal screenings prevent cancer and save lives.

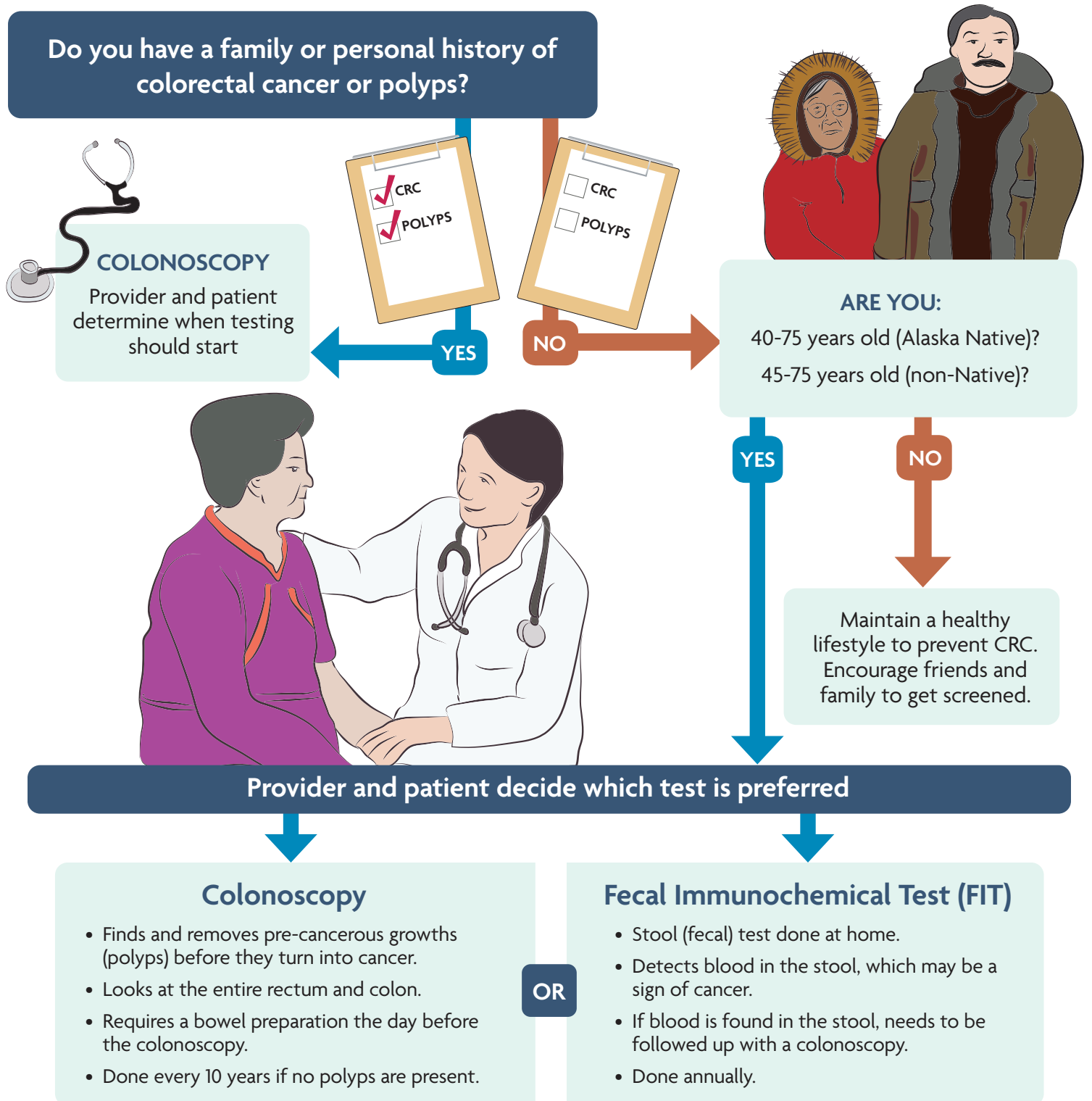
Screenings can help find small growths, called polyps, that can be removed before they turn into cancer.

Colorectal cancer often has no symptoms.

Cancer can be in your body even if you feel good. Screenings can find the cancer early, when it is easier to treat.



How to Choose the Right Test



A colonoscopy is the preferred screening test for Alaska Native people to detect colorectal cancer. Other screening options can be used if colonoscopy testing is not available or based on patient preference.