Cancer Screening Q&A

I don't have any symptoms. Do I still need to get screened?
Yes! Screening tests are used to find cancer before a person has any symptoms. So, it's important to get regular screenings even if you are feeling fine. Cancer screening tests can catch some changes that may or may not be cancer.

I don't have a primary care doctor. Who should I talk to about screening?
The first step is to contact your insurance company to see which doctors or providers are covered in your plan. If you don't have health insurance, you can check with your local hospital or health department for help.

I don't know if I can pay for the tests I need. How much does a cancer screening cost?
If you have health insurance, ask about coverage for cancer screenings. Most screenings are covered by insurance or available at no cost. There might be costs for follow-up appointments and additional tests if they are needed, but most of the time test results are normal and no additional testing is needed. If you don't have health insurance, you can call your local health department for information, or find resources in Screening For People Who Are Uninsured or Underinsured below.

I am not sure where I can get a screening test. How do I find out where to go?
Your doctor can help you know which screenings are right for you, where you can get the tests, and how to schedule them. If you don't have a doctor, you can call your local hospital or health department for help.

I'm worried or nervous about screening tests.
It's okay to be concerned about medical procedures, possible findings, affording tests, or even seeing a doctor. But knowing the current state of your health can make it easier to take care of any issues and can potentially lengthen or save your life.