



Talking to

FAMILY MEMBERS

Purpose: This guide is a patient-facing tool that can be used to guide a structured, empathetic conversation with family members and loved ones about colorectal cancer screening, answer common questions, and provide resources.

OPENING THE CONVERSATION

Suggested things to say (check all you want to use):

- I care about you and your health, and I want to make sure you stay healthy.
- Colorectal cancer often starts without symptoms — screening is the best way to catch it early.
- Have you thought about getting screened? I can share some information.

Your own words / notes:

ASK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE

Questions to ask (check what applies):

- Have you ever had a colorectal cancer screening?
- What's been the hardest part about getting screened?
- Do you know the options for screening?

Family member's response:



SHARE KEY FACTS

Points you might share (check all that apply):

- Screening can prevent colorectal cancer by catching polyps early.
- Early detection increases survival rates to over 90%.
- Screening usually starts at age 45 (earlier if family history).
- Options: colonoscopy at the clinic or an at-home stool test.

Family member's response:

ENCOURAGE ACTION

What to offer (check all that apply):

- I can share names of local clinics.
- I can help schedule an appointment or get a home test kit.
- I can go with you for support.

Next steps / notes:

WRAP-UP

Friendly closing lines (check what feels right):

- Thanks for talking with me. Screening is one of the most important things for your health.
- Here's a flyer / card with information. Take a look and let's talk again soon.
- I'll check in later to see how it went — you're not alone in this.

Follow-up notes / reminders: