

Preventive Care for Men: Your plan

What is preventive care?

Preventive care is what you do to keep from getting sick or to keep a sickness from getting worse. It means taking small actions now, when you may not have an illness or symptoms. To get good preventive care, you need to:

- Know your risk factors
- Have regular health checks
- Get screened for cancer
- Get immunized
- Practice healthy habits

A preventive care visit with your doctor is a separate visit. It is not done at the same time as a visit for a recent or an ongoing condition.

Why is preventive care important?

Preventive care puts you in charge of your health. It lets you gauge your health today, and find out ways to protect it for the future. Preventive care helps you:

- Prevent disease
- Catch disease early, when more can be done about it
- Save time, money, and stress in the long run

Using this plan

Preventive care doesn't have to be difficult. In fact, most of the things you need to do only once, or not very often. This fact sheet will help you learn what to do when and where to go. Here's how to get started:

- Fill out the checklist at the right to learn more about your personal risks.
- See [pages 2](#) and [3](#) to learn more about the tests, screenings, and immunizations. **These are covered by most insurance programs at no cost to members.**
- See [page 4](#) to review your everyday habits and to make a plan for simple things you can do right away.



1 Know your risk factors. Risk factors are conditions or habits that make you more likely to get a disease. If you know your risk factors, you know what you need to be especially careful about. Your risk factors are influenced by these things:

- **Your personal health history.** Mark the conditions that have been a problem for you in the past.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> High blood pressure | <input type="checkbox"/> High glucose/diabetes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High cholesterol | <input type="checkbox"/> Cancer, type: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Overweight | <input type="checkbox"/> Glaucoma |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signs of depression | <input type="checkbox"/> Abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signs of cardiovascular disease | |

- **Your family history.** List diseases that have affected your family members.

What?	Who?	At what age?
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

- **Your lifestyle.** Mark risky habits that apply to you.
 - Lack of physical activity, or long periods of sitting
 - Tobacco use
 - Alcohol use (more than 2 drinks a day)

2 Have regular health checks. These health checks provide information about your overall health. When you know this information, you and your doctor can make a plan for what to do about it.

Health check	When and where	Your results
<p>Blood pressure (BP) High blood pressure can strain your arteries and heart, and can restrict blood flow to and from other body organs. This can lead to heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, and other problems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check every year. • This can be done in many places. • If BP is high, check at medical office to confirm and treat. 	<p>Blood pressure _____ / _____ Date _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Normal: Less than 120/80 <input type="checkbox"/> Elevated: Between 120/80 and 129/80 <input type="checkbox"/> High: 130/80 or higher</p>
<p>Blood cholesterol High cholesterol puts you at risk for heart attack and stroke. The most accurate cholesterol tests require you to fast for 12 hours first.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check at least every 5 years, more often if you have heart disease or other risk factors. • Have this done by a healthcare provider. 	<p>Total Cholesterol _____ Date _____ HDL _____ LDL _____ What counts as normal depends on other risk factors. Discuss your results with your doctor. <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> High</p>
<p>Body mass index (BMI) and waistline BMI is a formula that uses your height and weight to estimate your body fat. Even if your BMI is normal, extra fat around your waist can lead to health problems. Try to keep your waistline under 40 inches.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check every year. • You can do this yourself. Find a BMI calculator or chart online or in a book. Measure your waist. 	<p>BMI _____ Date _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Normal range: Between 18.5 and 25, and waist below 40 inches <input type="checkbox"/> Overweight: Between 25 and 30, or waist over 40 inches <input type="checkbox"/> Obese: 30 and above, or waist over 40 inches</p>
<p>Physical activity Ask yourself these 2 questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On average, how many days a week do you do physical activity or exercise? • On average, how many minutes of physical activity or exercise do you do on those days? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your doctor will also ask you these questions. 	<p>Date _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Getting enough activity: You exercise at least 150 minutes a week (30 minutes most days) <input type="checkbox"/> Need to get more activity: You exercise less than that</p>
<p>Depression Ask yourself these 2 questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the past month, have I been bothered by feeling down, depressed, or hopeless? • During the past month, have I felt little interest or pleasure in doing things? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check when you feel it's necessary. • You can do this yourself or talk to your doctor. 	<p>Date _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not at risk: You answered "no" to both questions <input type="checkbox"/> At risk: You answered "yes" to one or both questions—talk to your doctor</p>
<p>Glucose (blood sugar) High glucose puts you at risk for diabetes and certain hormone problems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check if your doctor recommends it. • Have this done by a healthcare provider. 	<p>Fasting blood glucose _____ OR A1c (percent) _____ Date _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Normal range: Between 70 and 99 <input type="checkbox"/> Prediabetes: Between 100 and 125 <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes: Over 125</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Normal range: Below 5.7% <input type="checkbox"/> Prediabetes: 5.7% to 6.4% <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes: 6.5% or over</p>
<p>Glaucoma Glaucoma is a condition where fluid pressure inside your eye slowly rises and damages your optic nerve. It's a leading cause of blindness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check every 2 years starting at age 65; start at age 40 if at high risk. • See an optometrist or ophthalmologist. 	<p>Date _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Normal pressure <input type="checkbox"/> High pressure</p>
<p>AAA (abdominal aortic aneurism) AAA is a bulge in your abdominal aorta, the largest artery in your body. If it bursts, it can cause serious bleeding and death. It's most common in people who have smoked.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check once between ages 65 and 75, if you've ever been a smoker. or have a family history. • Have this done by a healthcare provider. 	<p>Date _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Normal range: 3 centimeters (cm) or smaller <input type="checkbox"/> Small to medium: Between 3 and 5.4 cm <input type="checkbox"/> Large: 5.5 cm and larger</p>
<p>Hepatitis C Hepatitis C is a liver disease that can be spread through blood contact. If left untreated, it can lead to serious liver problems or liver cancer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check once. • Have this done by a healthcare provider. 	<p>Date _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Have hepatitis C <input type="checkbox"/> Don't have hepatitis C</p>

3 Get screened for cancer. If you catch cancer early enough, there's usually a lot you can do to get rid of it or slow it down. If you catch it too late, it's often deadly. Getting screened gives you more control.

Cancer screening	When and where	Your results
<p>Colon cancer</p> <p>There are 3 different types of screening tests, all done on different schedules. If you've had a positive test in the past, future tests may need to be done more often than recommended here.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check between ages 45 and 75. Start earlier (usually 40) if you have a family history of colon cancer. Have a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Stool check every year, OR – Sigmoidoscopy every 5 years, OR – Colonoscopy every 10 years Call your insurance provider to find out where to go. 	<p>Date _____</p> <p>Type of test</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Results</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Prostate cancer</p> <p>Because prostate cancer grows very slowly, there's not enough evidence to show that all men benefit from regular screening. Starting at age 45, talk with your doctor about your personal risk factors and whether you should be screened.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check if your doctor recommends it. Your doctor can perform this screening. 	<p>Date _____</p> <p>Results</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Testicular cancer</p> <p>Testicular cancer is most common in men between ages 20 and 34. Be aware of how your testes look and feel so you can report changes to your doctor. Check for any hard lumps or any change in the size, shape, feel, or color of the testes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you notice changes, see your doctor for screening. 	<p>Date _____</p> <p>Results</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Skin cancer</p> <p>Skin cancer is most often caught during a self-check. Look and feel for moles or freckles that are irregular in color or shape, or are changing in shape or size.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you notice changes, see your doctor for screening. 	<p>Date _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Home check <input type="checkbox"/> Doctor check</p> <p>Results</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Lung cancer</p> <p>People with a long smoking history are at increased risk for lung cancer and may benefit from screening.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current or past smokers age 55 or older, check if your doctor recommends it. Low-dose CT scan at a radiology center. 	<p>Date _____</p> <p>Results</p> <p>_____</p>

4 Get immunized. Immunizations can be done in a doctor's office or at a local health department. Flu immunizations are also available at many grocery stores and workplaces.

Immunization	When	Completed dates
<p>Flu is a virus that changes every year, so the immunization you got last year won't help this year. Flu is a serious illness. Every year many people end up in the hospital, and some die from the flu.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every fall or winter. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed date _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed date _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed date _____</p>
<p>Pneumonia is an infection in your lungs that is usually caused by a type of bacteria. It's a serious illness, especially among older adults.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One time before 65 if you smoke or have asthma, COPD, heart disease, or diabetes. After age 65, 1 dose Prevnar and 1 dose Pneumovax, a year apart. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed date _____</p>
<p>HPV is an immunization against human papillomavirus. Genital HPV is the most common sexually transmitted infection and can cause genital cancer. It is given as a series of 2 or 3 doses over a period of 6 months. The number of doses depends on your age when you start.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before age 26. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed date _____</p>
<p>Td booster or Tdap* is an immunization against tetanus and diphtheria, which are both uncommon infections now. The bacteria that cause them are still common, though, and the illnesses can be life-threatening.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every 10 years. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed date _____</p>
<p>Zoster* is an immunization against shingles, a painful rash.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One time after age 50. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed date _____</p>
<p>Other immunizations,* such as HepB, chickenpox, and MMR, should be completed if you didn't have them as a child.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If not completed as a child. 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed</p>

*May not be covered by Medicare.

5 Practice healthy habits. Above all, having healthy habits every day is the best thing you can do to maintain good health and energy. The habits below are important. Mark how you're doing.

	Doing great	Need to do better
• Get at least 150 minutes of physical activity a week. Reduce time sitting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Eat 2 to 3 cups of vegetables and 2 cups of fruit every day.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Stay hydrated. Drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of water every day.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Sleep 7 to 8 hours every night.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Don't use tobacco.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Limit alcohol to 2 drinks a day or less.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Wear a seat belt when driving or a helmet when riding.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Next steps

It may seem like there's a lot to think about here. Preventive care doesn't have to be difficult, though. Look at each step and write down one small thing you can do to get started. Then pat yourself on the back!

Make a list of simple things you can do right away

- 1 **Know your risk** (For example, ask your father at what age he started taking cholesterol medication.)

- 2 **Have regular health checks** (For example, have your blood pressure checked next time you're at a medical office.)

- 3 **Get screened for cancer** (For example, call your insurance company and find out where you can go for a colonoscopy.)

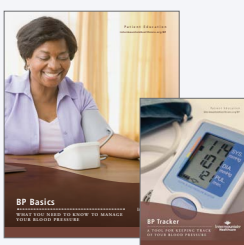
- 4 **Get immunized** (For example, if it's fall or winter, get a flu shot.)

- 5 **Practice healthy habits** (For example, go for a walk or a run today.)

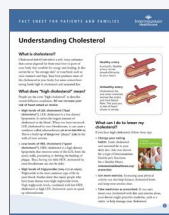
Be sure to follow your doctor's recommendations

Based on your tests and screenings, your doctor may recommend activities, diet changes, or medications. Follow these recommendations to help you prevent illness and to have your best possible health and energy.

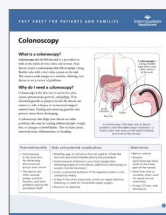
Intermountain resources You can ask your healthcare providers for these Intermountain materials:



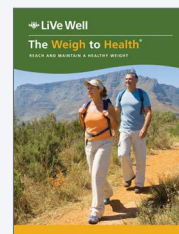
Blood pressure



Cholesterol



Colonoscopy



Weight management



Quitting tobacco

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(Last reviewed - 08/21) Also available in Spanish.