Find it early: Get screened

Why?
Screening can find cancer before symptoms develop. Screening increases chances of finding cancer at the earliest stage, when it can be treated most effectively. Consult with your doctor to make informed decisions.

• Colorectal Cancer  For individuals at average risk, beginning at age 50, screening with either flexible sigmoidoscopy every 5 years and yearly stool testing for hidden blood (FOBT or FIT), or colonoscopy every 10 years following a normal exam.

• Breast Cancer  Annual mammogram for women beginning at age 40. Clinical breast exam by your doctor once every 3 years for women younger than 40, and then annually.

• Cervical Cancer  Screening with Pap tests every 2 years between ages 21 and 29; women age 30 and older who have had 3 consecutive negative Pap tests may be screened every 3 years.

• Prostate Cancer  Men over age 50 should discuss benefits and limitations of screening with their doctor.

• Oral Cancer  Be sure your dental hygienist gives you a complete exam for oral cancer. Notify your dentist or doctor of any painful areas, bleeding, or lumps/lesions in the mouth.

• Skin Cancer  Regularly check your skin and be aware of changes. Make sure your annual checkup includes a fully-body skin check.

• Talk with your doctor about what is right for you.

Norris Cotton Cancer Center

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center provides evidence-based care at 15 locations regionally. Through research, new treatments, clinical trials, prevention, and community outreach, we provide the highest level of innovative, compassionate care for our patients, and contribute to solving the problems of cancer worldwide.

You can make a few healthy changes to reduce your cancer risk

Prevention Programs in the Community

For information about cancer prevention approaches and community interventions, contact:
Telisa Stewart, M.P.H.
Director for Community Education & Prevention
Norris Cotton Cancer Center
Telisa.M.Stewart@dartmouth.edu

Taking Steps

Lebanon, Manchester, Keene, NH
St. Johnsbury, VT
800-638-6918
cancer.dartmouth.edu
Protect yourself from the sun

Why?
Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the U.S. Reducing sun burns and exposure to UV radiation among children under age 18 can prevent 90% of skin cancers later in life.

- Limit sun exposure.
- Seek shade.
- Cover up! Wear hats and protective clothing.
- Apply sunscreen liberally, and use at least 15 SPF. Reapply frequently.
- Be sure your sunscreen blocks both UVA and UVB rays.
- Do not use indoor tanning beds.
- Wear UV-protective sunglasses.
- Teach children sun-protective behavior and keep reminding your teen.

Do not use tobacco

Why?
Smoking causes 30% of all cancer deaths. Tobacco contains 28 cancer-causing ingredients. There is NO safe tobacco product.

- Set a good example; teach kids not to use tobacco.
- Set a date to quit if you use tobacco.
- If you don’t use tobacco, don’t start.
- Seek support if you want to quit.

Information resources:
- NH Quitline 1-800-TryToStop
- VT Quitline 1-877-YES-QUIT
- www.dhmc.org/goto/quit_smoking
- smokefree.gov

Maintain a healthy weight and be active

Why?
Being overweight substantially raises your risk of uterine, breast, colon, kidney, and other cancers. Regular exercise is linked to a lower risk of cancer.

- Eat a healthy diet with whole grains, lean protein, fruits, and vegetables.
- Reduce calories.
- Limit red meat and animal fat.
- Exercise for at least 30 minutes, most days of the week.
- Limit intake of alcohol to 1 drink per day for women and 2 drinks per day for men.

Information resources: