New Hampshire
Comprehensive
Cancer
Collaboration
Together-Eliminating Cancer

Your Organization's Logo Here

Shared Decision Making for Cancer Screening

What is Shared Decision Making?

Shared Decision Making is when you work with your healthcare provider to make choices about your healthcare, which includes choices about cancer screenings. You discuss the risks and benefits, and you reflect on your wishes and values to make the choice that is best for you.

Why is Shared Decision Making so important when it comes to cancer screening?

There is often more than one choice you can make when it comes to cancer screenings. No one choice is better than another.

Breast, cervix, lung, and colon cancer screenings can often find cancer at an early stage when it is easier to treat. Sometimes, the screening can even prevent cancer.

Talk with your provider about when you should get screened, what types of screenings you should think about, and the risks and benefits of each option.

Talk with your provider about your options.

You are the person on your healthcare team who can take control of your health. Talk with your provider about cancer screening options.

How does Shared Decision Making work?

Jane and her provider discuss her options.

Q: Jane is 56 years old and a former smoker. Should she have a test to screen for lung cancer?

A: Jane should decide this with her provider. They should discuss current guidelines and the risks and benefits of screening. They should talk about Jane's beliefs and values and what she prefers. Not all former smokers can be screened for lung cancer.

How to talk to your provider about cancer screening options:

Ask your provider these questions.

1) What are all of my options?
2) What are the risks and benefits of each option?
3) If I get screened, how likely is it that these risks will occur?

Write any other questions you have about cancer screenings below and bring this card to your provider.

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The Bottom Line

Work with your provider to make the best choices for you and the screenings you get. Ask them questions and share your concerns. Then you can decide what is best for you.