

Preferred language or wording when talking with or mailing SOS participants:

Term/concept	Preferred wording	Explanation / Comments
Screening test		A test that looks for signs of disease before any symptoms show up
FOBT or FIT	“Stool test”, “stool test kit”	A screening test you do at home. Looks for hidden blood in the stool.
Colorectal cancer	“Colon cancer”	Cancer of the large intestine or rectum
Colorectal cancer screening	Screening or testing for colon cancer	Lead with the word “screening” or “testing” when possible
SOS		S mart O ptions for S creening – a research study looking at how best to help people get colon cancer screening done and continue to screen as recommended
Flexible sigmoidoscopy	Aka “flex-sig”	An exam of the inside of the rectum and <u>lower</u> colon
Colonoscopy	No alternative	An exam of the inside of the rectum and <u>entire</u> colon
Negative FOBT/FIT test		A negative test means that there were no signs of hidden blood in your stool and you don’t currently need follow-up care
Positive FOBT/FIT tests		A positive test result does <u>not</u> usually mean that cancer is present. It just means that more tests are needed
Polyp	A growth	A growth inside the colon or rectum that is not normal. Some polyps can turn into cancer.
Precancerous		Can become (or turn into) cancer
Colon		Another word for large intestine
Rectum		The last 8-10 inches of your large intestine
Fecal matter or feces	stool	Alternates: bowel movement, feces. Poop or number 2 is OK if the patient is still unclear.