



Suggested Screening Tests for the Cancers Covered by the Barry Brady Act

To comply with the Barry Brady Act (hereinafter “Act”), municipalities must provide an annual physical medical exam that includes screening for the cancers covered in the Act to any firefighter who requests to be screened. Different tests are available to screen for the covered cancers, and municipalities have asked for guidelines on the screening tests required by the Act. The Act does not specify what screening tests should be used, so municipalities may select the screening tests to be included in the physical medical exam.

MTAS consulted with Dr. Joe Holley, MD, FACEP, FAEMS, medical director for the Tennessee Department of EMS and associate professor in emergency medicine for the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, for suggestions on appropriate screening tests. Dr. Holley recommended starting with the least invasive test and progressing to more invasive tests only if warranted. Dr. Holley’s suggested screening tests are found in the table below.

MTAS recommends that municipalities preparing requests for bids for physical medical exams, and cancer screenings consult with the physician or medical advisor for the respective municipality to determine exactly what tests the municipalities will use. These suggested tests can serve as a starting point for that discussion.

Cancer	Suggested Initial Screening Test
Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma	Provider to manually manipulate lymph nodes/question patient regarding tenderness, etc. Ultrasound to be ordered if deemed necessary.
Colon Cancer	Fecal occult blood test (Hemoccult stool test)
Skin Cancer	Visual assessment only. Noted concerns will result in referral to a dermatologist.
Multiple Myeloma Cancer	Complete Blood Count (CBC)
Leukemia	Complete Blood Count (CBC)
Testicular	Urinalysis and testicular exam