

# March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

**Spokane Gastroenterology wants to spread the great news.  
The incidence of colon cancer is going down!**

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More people are getting screened for colorectal cancer by checking for blood in their stool (FIT) having a colonoscopy, or using the new Cologuard<sup>®</sup> test that also detects bad DNA. Finding colorectal cancer early is so important! Treatment has improved: the five-year survival for early-stage cancers is almost 90%. While there is reason to celebrate this progress, colon cancer is increasing in younger people. Plus, there are many people 50 and older who still have not got the message: colon screening saves lives!

**The US Preventative Services Task Force and the American Cancer Society now recommend screening for colon cancer beginning at age 45.**

But wait! If more people are getting screened and the tests are better, shouldn't we be finding more colon cancer in the population, not less?

**Early detection or prevention.  
Colonoscopy does both.**

Colonoscopy is an excellent way to find early cancer. It is the gold standard against which other tests are judged. And it is the only screening method which can be used to detect and remove colon polyps before they grow and risk becoming cancerous! That's not just screening for early cancer, that's prevention and that's what is driving the incidence of colorectal cancer down.

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## Still not sure about colonoscopy? How about this?

Spokane Gastroenterology is working with Exact Sciences, the company that produces Cologuard<sup>®</sup> to further improve that screening test. Patients who need a screening colonoscopy will receive a stipend of \$475 for their time and effort (for sending in a sample of their poop! Before colonoscopy). You will not find a better offer anywhere!!

Open to men or women 45 years of age or older who require colonoscopy for screening or surveillance (history of polyps). NO prior colonoscopy in the last 9 years and no other recent screening test (FOBT, FIT or Cologuard<sup>®</sup>). Patients with any chronic intestinal disease, acute intestinal symptoms or those at higher-than-average risk for colon cancer are excluded.

One extra visit to our clinic before the colonoscopy is required to sign a consent form and get a collection kit. Patients can drop their "package" at any UPS or call for a pickup. It's free! The sample must be collected and sent no more than 90 days before colonoscopy

The colonoscopy will proceed in the usual manner and will be charged to the patient's insurance or Medicare. In most cases there should be no deductible or copay charge for patients 50 or older. We recommend patients check their individual insurance plans. We also offer excellent cash pricing for those without insurance. Call to inquire.

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TO SCHEDULE YOUR COLONOSCOPY CONTACT SPOKANE GASTROENTEROLOGY:  
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