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## **Campaign Focuses on Regular Screening to Stop Colorectal Cancer**

Colorectal cancer is second only to lung cancer as a cause of cancer deaths among American men and women. But it doesn't have to be. Recently, Medicare and private insurance carriers made colonoscopy – the gold standard of colorectal cancer screening – the screening method of choice, and agreed to pay for screening colonoscopies for their patients over 50 who don't have symptoms. This decision gives physicians a tremendous opportunity to save thousands of lives.

“Regular screening tests can help prevent colorectal cancer or find it early, when treatment is most effective,” said Gastroenterologist Akram Ismail, M.D., of

Lake County's Professional Gastroenterology and Nutrition Associates.

“I urge everyone aged 50 and older to speak to your doctor about having a screening colonoscopy. It could save your life. Ninety percent of the people whose colorectal cancer is found and treated early survive,” he added.

It is estimated that 130,200 men and women will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer this year, and more than 56,000 lives will be lost to this disease. Most cases, 93 percent, occur in men and women over age 50.