



## CDC Encourages Colorectal Cancer Screening

(NAPSA)—There are ways to help protect yourself from colorectal cancer (cancer of the colon or rectum). More than one-third of deaths from colorectal cancer could be avoided if people age 50 and older had regular screening tests for the disease.



**Colorectal cancer screening tests can detect the disease in its earliest—and most treatable—form.**

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Colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer in the U.S. In fact, an estimated 56,600 Americans will die of colorectal cancer in 2002, and over 148,000 new cases are expected to be diagnosed. However, the disease is usually treatable and can even be curable when diagnosed early.

That's one reason doctors recommend men and women begin testing for colorectal cancer at age 50, when the risk for developing the disease increases. The tests can find polyps (precancerous growths) that can be removed before they become cancerous, and screening can detect the disease before there are any symptoms at all.

To educate Americans about colorectal cancer, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services created *Screen for Life: the National Colorectal Cancer Action Campaign*. The campaign urges men and women aged 50 and older to see their doctors about getting tested. To learn more, visit [www.cdc.gov/cancer/screenforlife](http://www.cdc.gov/cancer/screenforlife).

Medicare and most insurance plans help pay for screening tests. To find out about Medicare coverage, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).