If You're Over 50, Get Screened For Colorectal Cancer

(NAPSA)—Colorectal cancer (cancer of the colon or rectum) is the second leading cancer killer in the United States. But it doesn't have to be. That's why the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Care Financing Administration have created *Screen for Life: the National Colorectal Cancer Action Campaign*.

More than a third of the estimated 57,000 deaths from colorectal cancer expected to occur this year could be avoided if people over 50 had screening tests. Screening can find colorectal cancer early, even before there are symptoms. When this disease is found early, treatment can be extremely effective.

There's even better news: screening helps prevent colorectal cancer. Screening can find polyps (abnormal growths in the colon and rectum) that can be removed before they have a chance to become cancerous. National guidelines recommend that all men and women have regular screening tests for colorectal cancer beginning at 50, when the risk for the disease begins increasing.

Medicare and many insurance plans help pay for screening. To find out more, speak with your doctor or visit www.cdc.gov/cancer/screenforlife.