

OUR PATIENTS COME FIRST

# **Outreach of the Month:**



#### Information for Your Patients

### March 2023

## In This Issue

Gaps in care Outreach Topic: Colorectal Cancer

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Link 1 Link 2

#### **Contact Us:**

18800 Hubbard Drive, Ste. 200 Dearborn, MI 48126 313-240-9867

http://www.uopdocs.com

Colorectal cancer is a disease of the colon or rectum, which are parts of the digestive system. Unlike most cancers, colorectal cancer is often preventable with screening and highly treatable when detected early.

Most cases of colorectal cancer occur in people ages 45 and older, but the disease is increasingly affecting younger people. Each year, about 150,000 Americans are diagnosed with this disease and more than 50,000 die.

Colorectal cancer may develop without symptoms. If you are 45 or older and at average risk, it's time to **get screened.** 

Screening tests help your doctor find polyps or cancer before you even have symptoms. This early detection may prevent polyps from becoming cancer and could jumpstart treatment earlier, when it is most effective.

Colorectal cancer often develops without symptoms. When they occur symptoms may include:

- Blood in or on stool
- Persistent unusual bowel movements like constipation or diarrhea
- Stomach pain, aches, or cramps that don't go away
- Losing weight for no reason

\*See your PCP today to schedule a colorectal cancer screening\*

**UOP:** Focuses on the delivery of high-quality healthcare and honors commitments to our providers, patients, and our participating health plans.