



ATTENTION MEDICARE RECIPIENTS

**MEDICARE HAS
ENHANCED BENEFITS
TO PROVIDE SCREENING
COLONOSCOPIES WITH
NO OUT-OF-POCKET COST.**

Colon cancer is the second leading cancer killer, but it doesn't have to be. If everyone age 50 and older had regular screening tests, at least 60% of deaths could be avoided.

To learn more about having your screening colonoscopy performed at Great Basin Surgical Center call **(775) 753-4700** or visit our website **GreatBasinSurgicalCenter.com**



Great Basin
Surgical Center

YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS

Precancerous polyps and early-stage colorectal cancer don't always cause symptoms, especially at first. This means that someone could have polyps or colorectal cancer and not know it. That is why having a screening test is so important.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Some people with colorectal polyps or colorectal cancer do have symptoms. They may include:

- Blood in or on your stool (bowel movement).
- Stomach pain, aches, or cramps that don't go away.
- Losing weight and you don't know why.

If you have any of these symptoms, talk to your doctor. These symptoms may be caused by something other than cancer. However, the only way to know what is causing them is to see your doctor.

SCREENING SAVES LIVES

If you're 50 or older, getting a colorectal cancer screening test could save your life. Here's how:

- Colorectal cancer usually starts from polyps in the colon or rectum. A polyp is a growth that shouldn't be there.
- Over time, some polyps can turn into cancer
- Screening tests can find polyps, so they can be removed before they turn into cancer.
- Screening tests also can find colorectal cancer early. When it is found early, the chance of being cured is good.

OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS

Patient out of pocket costs are waived for the screening if no polyps are found. If a polyp is found, it will be removed, and Medicare will only charge coinsurance for the procedure. Either way, the deductible is waived for colonoscopies.

WHAT IS A COLONOSCOPY?

Colonoscopies are usually performed while you are asleep and lying on your side. The instrument is inserted through the anal canal to evaluate the large bowel. Most colonoscopies take between 20 and 45 minutes.