

## WHAT IS OPEN ACCESS COLON CANCER SCREENING

***Your health is our #1 priority. In our commitment to the prevention of colon cancer, we at Colon & Digestive Health Specialists offer our patients the option of OPEN ACCESS COLON CANCER SCREENING.***

OPEN ACCESS allows the patient or referring physician to schedule a screening colonoscopy without a prior full gastrointestinal specialty consultation with one of our providers. **Open Access** is appropriate for healthy patients who need a routine screening colonoscopy and who have no serious medical conditions. Patients with medical issues are advised to meet with one of our providers for a consultation and detailed history to ensure that it is safe for the patient to have a colonoscopy.

### ***Who's eligible for OPEN ACCESS***

- **OPEN ACCESS** is recommended for asymptomatic healthy individuals  $\geq 50$
- Individuals with a family history of colon cancer  $\geq 40$  years old
- Any individual with a personal history of colon cancer or colon polyps

You or your physician can contact ***Colon & Digestive Health Specialists*** directly to schedule your screening colonoscopy procedure. We will then coordinate with your physician any necessary paperwork, insurance authorization (if required) and preparation for the screening colonoscopy. We will require physician notes and a medication list to rule out any condition that may result in a pre-visit prior to this procedure. Please understand, **Open Access** is not a substitute for a physician consultation. If you have underlying GI issues, such as abdominal pain or change in bowel habits this exam may not be well suited for you and it would be in your best interest to have an initial consultation with one of our providers.

### ***Early Detection***

In offering our **Open Access Scheduling** we hope to encourage more patients to schedule a screening colonoscopy. As colon cancer is the second leading cause of death in both men and women it's so important to be proactive in early detection of this disease.

### ***Regular screenings***

- Can detect cancers at an early stage where the cancer is most curable and preventable.
- May detect pre-cancerous polyps. Removal of these polyps in early stages may prevent cancer from developing.

***Early detection is the key to saving lives.*** While colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States for men and women it can be one of the most preventable cancers and most curable when detected at an early stage.

*Please contact Colon & Digestive Health Specialists Patient Coordinator if you have any questions or need further information. PH: 480.219.6662 X216/Fax: 480.219.6596*