



dmh *Understanding* your colon cancer screening

INTRODUCING THE DMH GINAVIGATOR

At the DMH Digestive Disease Center, we've created a designated phone number as an informational resource for patients to get answers to gastroenterology-related questions. Our **GI Navigator** can also help you set up your colonoscopy screening.

CALL 217-876-1846

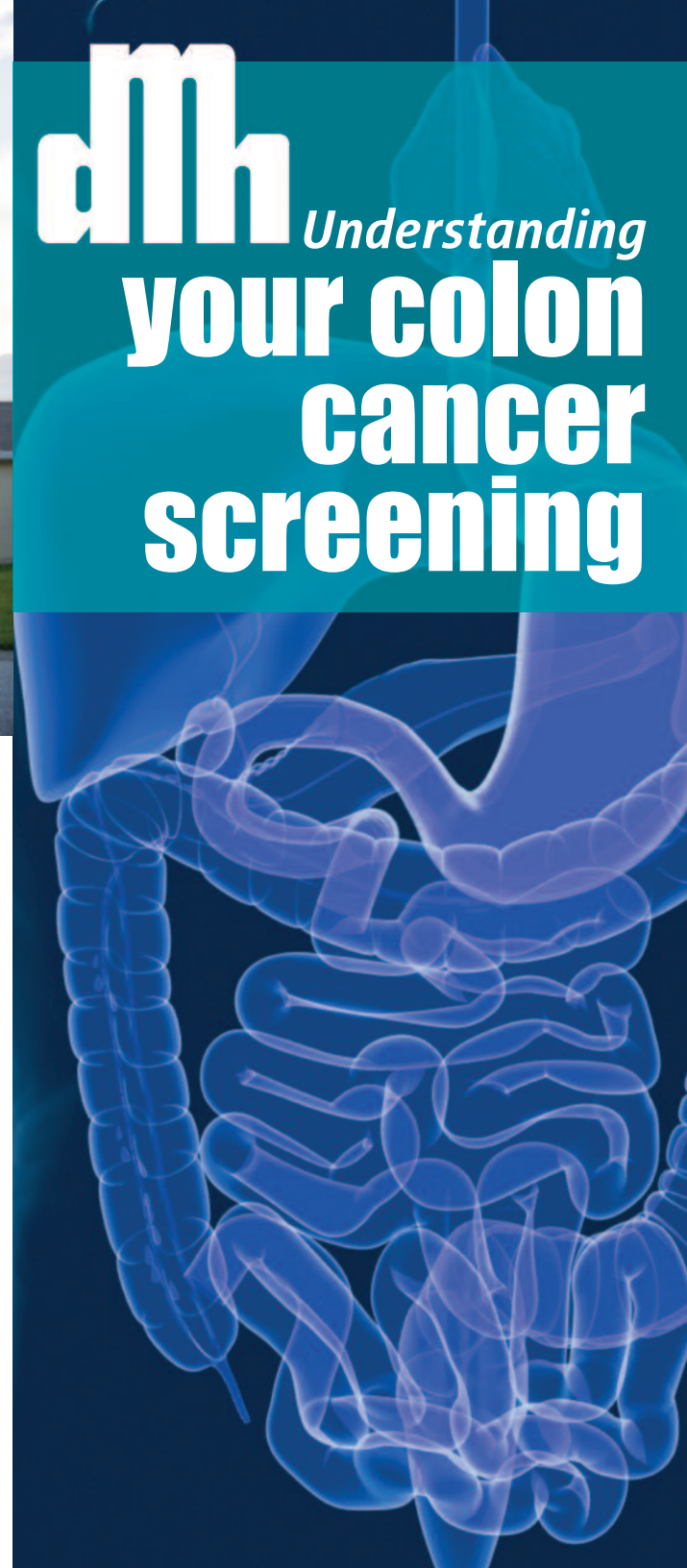
For more information
about getting a screening colonoscopy,

CALL 217-876-1846

dmh
**DIGESTIVE
DISEASE**
CENTER

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16-323



Colon Cancer Screening saves lives

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of death from cancer in the United States. If everyone age 50 years and older had regular screening tests, at least 60 percent of deaths from this cancer could be avoided. ***If you're age 50 or older, getting a colorectal cancer screening test could save your life.***

- 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 and remove them before they turn into cancer.
- Screening tests can also find colorectal cancer early. When it is found early, you have a higher chance of being cured.

Colorectal cancer can start with no symptoms

Precancerous polyps do not cause symptoms in early stages. This means someone could have polyps or colorectal cancer and not know it. That is why screening is so important.



What is colorectal cancer?

Colorectal cancer occurs in the rectum or colon, sometimes called colon cancer. The colon is the large intestine or large bowel. The rectum is the passageway that connects the colon to the anus.

Who Gets Colorectal Cancer?

- An equal number of men and women.
- Most often in people age 50 and older.
- The risk increases with age.

Are you at risk?

People at high risk for colorectal cancer may need earlier and more frequent screenings. Talk with your doctor about when to begin screening and how often.

Your risk for colorectal cancer may be higher than average if—

- You or a close relative have had colorectal polyps or colorectal cancer.
- You have inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).
- You have hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer, or a genetic syndrome such as familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP).
- You have previous history of bladder or uterine cancer.



Colonoscopy explained

During a colonoscopy cancer screening test, a physician uses an endoscope (a long, thin, flexible, lighted tube)



to check for polyps or cancer inside the rectum and entire colon.

During the test, the doctor can

find and remove most polyps and some cancers.

It is recommended that you should get a colonoscopy at age 50; and then every 10 years.*

*Recommended by the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. You may need to begin periodic screening colonoscopy earlier than age 50 if you have a personal or family history of colorectal cancer, polyps or long-standing ulcerative colitis.