

Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates
Position Statement

Colorectal Cancer Screening and Awareness

Statement

The Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates (SGNA), a professional organization of nurses and associates dedicated to the safe and effective practice of gastroenterology and endoscopy nursing, is committed to eradicating colorectal cancer by increasing colorectal cancer screening rates for all people.

Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer in men and women in the United States, and is the second leading cause of cancer death. A cancer that starts in the colon or rectum, colorectal cancer often begins as a growth called a polyp. Finding polyps and/or growths during screening colonoscopies can help prevent colorectal cancer related deaths.

SGNA encourages its membership to continue the important work of spreading awareness to the public on the necessity of timely colorectal cancer screening. Patients continue to seek out nurses for information about health concerns and navigating the healthcare system. It is known that awareness and education can increase colorectal screening rates, as is illustrated by a 20.7% increase in screenings over the last 10 years.

Evidence suggests that earlier diagnosis correlates with a greater chance of survival. The 5-year survival rate of a colorectal cancer patient diagnosed in the early stages is about 90%. To that end, SGNA supports legislative efforts at the federal level that focus on removing barriers to colorectal screening and effective, affordable treatment options. Additionally, SGNA supports more colorectal cancer screening and awareness activities, in collaboration with government agencies, healthcare organizations, physicians, and supporting partners.

About SGNA

The Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates carries out its mission by advancing the science and practice of gastroenterology and endoscopy nursing through education, research, advocacy, and collaboration, and by promoting the professional development of its members in an atmosphere of mutual support.

To learn more about the steps SGNA is taking to raise colorectal cancer screening awareness, please visit: www.sgna.org.