

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SMH Participating in Statewide Initiative to Promote Colorectal Screenings

PLYMOUTH, N.H. — Speare Memorial Hospital has become an official data collection site for the New Hampshire Colonoscopy Registry to help learn the best use of colonoscopy for colorectal cancer screening and preventions.

Working in partnership with Dr. Lynn Butterly, director of Colon Cancer Screening at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Speare submits quarterly, confidential reports on patients' colonoscopy examination results and any pathology report if a polyp was removed or biopsied.

“Patient participation in the registry is voluntary,” explains Miriah Greenwood, RN, surgical services clinical leader at Speare. “We provide all our colonoscopy patients information about the registry in advance, explaining that we are looking to capture data from the results of their procedure to learn more about medical, environmental and genetic factors that affect colon cancer. Ultimately, we are trying to raise awareness and increase the number of preventative screenings.”

Colorectal cancer is the second most common cause of death from cancer in the United States. It is also the most preventable, treatable and beatable if found early. The New Hampshire Colonoscopy Registry has been developed with support from the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society. Patients statistical information about incidences of polyps and cancer is separated out from personal data and aggregated with information collected from across the state. Those deciding to participate in the registry are given two surveys, one the day of their colonoscopy and one mailed 30 days later. Survey responses are included in the registry and part of the overall data analysis.

The American Cancer Society recommends colonoscopy screenings begin at age 50, earlier for people with a family history. Call Plymouth General Surgery at (603) 536-5670 to schedule your colonoscopy in our state-of-the-art, high definition Endoscopy Center. Dr. Joseph Casey and Dr. James Koren are accepting new patients.

Speare Memorial Hospital is a 24-hour, acute care, non-profit community hospital and health care provider serving Plymouth and the communities of central New Hampshire for more than a century. Visit online at www.spearehospital.com and join us on Facebook.

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