

New study investigates colorectal cancer screening

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A recent study from the UW School of Medicine and Public Health shows that people with insurance policies covering certain kinds of tests are more likely to be screened for colorectal cancer.

Researchers used electronic health records to examine rates of colorectal cancer screening rates for 33,177 under-65 patients who were due for screening. The researchers compared screening rates for those with and without policies that cover CT — or computerized tomography.

They found that individuals with that kind of policy were 48 percent more likely to be screened by any method compared to those without coverage that were due for screening.

“Our study suggests that when people are offered a greater choice of screening tests for colorectal cancer, including CT colonography, they are more likely to complete screening to prevent colorectal cancer,” said Maureen Smith, professor in the departments of population health sciences and family medicine, and lead for the study.

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