



Vitruvian Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MEDIA

INFORMATION

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March is a great time to focus on your colon health

DALTON, Ga. (March 5, 2026) – With March being National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, Bandy Endoscopy Center, Hamilton Physician Group – Gastroenterology, Hamilton Physician Group – General Surgery and Peoples Cancer Institute are teaming up to promote awareness for the disease.

Colorectal cancer is highly preventable with regular screening. A colonoscopy screening can prevent colorectal cancer by detecting polyps that can easily be removed. If you are 45 or older, or have a family history of colon cancer, don't wait. Talk to your doctor today about scheduling a colonoscopy.

Hamilton Medical Center's (HMC) Bandy Endoscopy Center offers convenient colonoscopy screenings to support gastroenterology health — helping detect issues early, prevent disease and ultimately save lives.

Patients enter through a dedicated entrance and receive expert care from board-certified physicians, gastroenterology nurses and staff. These highly qualified professionals stay up to date on the latest advancements, follow best practices and specialize in minimally invasive procedures to diagnose and treat digestive disorders.

HMC's commitment to innovation ensures the endoscopy center has the region's most advanced technology, including narrow-band imaging and scope guide technology for better detection and diagnosis of gastrointestinal disorders.

Hamilton Physician Group – Gastroenterology offers a full range of screening, diagnostics and medical treatments for digestive diseases, including illnesses or injuries affecting the esophagus, stomach, small and large intestine, liver, gallbladder, pancreas and colon. Services include colonoscopy screenings, ERCP (endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography), EGD (esophagogastroduodenoscopy), Barryx procedure, Bravo, Pill Cam study, motility studies and treatments for GERD, IBS, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease and Hepatitis C.

If you or someone you know is diagnosed with cancer, the team of medical and radiation oncologists, surgeons (Hamilton Physician Group – General Surgery) and clinical support staff at

Peoples Cancer Institute (PCI) are prepared to provide state-of-the-art care in a healing, nurturing environment. PCI centralizes all oncology care in one location to enhance physician collaboration and quality patient care.

For information regarding insurance coverage for colonoscopies or other healthcare screenings, consult with your insurance carrier. To take charge of your colon health, call Hamilton Physician Group - Gastroenterology at 706-272-4127.

Those 45 and older who aren't experiencing gastrointestinal or heart issues, don't have diabetes and have a body mass index (BMI) of less than 40 may qualify to schedule a colonoscopy without a physician office visit. Please call 706-529-3555 to see if you qualify.

About Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Established in 2000, Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month raises awareness and promotes research on prevention, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship. The goal is to support those affected and encourage healthy habits like screenings, exercise and a balanced diet. According to the CDC, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S. and the third most common cancer in men and women.

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About HMC's Bandy Endoscopy Center

Bandy Endoscopy Center uses the latest endoscopic instruments with high-definition images and narrow-band image capability for improved detection and diagnosis of GI disorders. The sophisticated digital fluoroscopy and radiology equipment delivers the highest-quality images, with the lowest radiation exposure. New impedance and manometry equipment mean vastly improved diagnosis for patients with reflux and atypical chest pain. The Center provides Ion by Intuitive, a groundbreaking robotic-assisted bronchoscopy system that significantly enhances the early detection of lung cancer. With its advanced navigation and precision, Ion allows physicians to biopsy tiny, hard-to-reach nodules earlier and more safely than traditional methods.

About Hamilton Physician Group – Gastroenterology

Hamilton Physician Group – Gastroenterology offers a full range of screening, diagnostics, and medical treatments for digestive diseases, including illness or injuries affecting the esophagus, stomach, small and large intestine, liver, gallbladder, pancreas and colon.

About Hamilton Physician Group – General Surgery

Hamilton Physician Group – General Surgery specializes in general surgery techniques with an emphasis on minimally invasive procedures. The practice provides a comprehensive program to ensure successful outcomes. The expert team provides a full range of surgical services, including general, laparoscopic, breast cancer surgery, and new technologies to treat acid reflux

and hernias. Services are coordinated with doctors in other specialties as well as your primary care physician to ensure everyone is working together to provide you with the best possible care.

About Peeples Cancer Institute

Accredited by the American College of Surgeons - Commission on Cancer, the 46,000-square-foot Peeples Cancer Institute (PCI) at Hamilton Medical Center (HMC) centralizes patient-centered care and outpatient cancer services in one convenient location, allowing for HMC's expert team of medical oncologists, radiation oncologists, surgeons and clinical support staff to work collaboratively to provide state-of-the-art care in a healing, nurturing environment.

PCI includes: board-certified medical oncologists; radiation oncologists and surgeons; state-of-the-art radiation therapies, including the Varian® TrueBeam linear accelerator and 4D CT Simulator; customized treatment plans; genetic testing and counseling; 3D mammography and ultrasound imaging (with expanded evening options for mammography); private and semi-private infusion rooms; medical nutrition by a registered dietician; a bistro with Starbucks coffee, smoothies and light refreshments; and patient navigation and oncology social work services. PCI patients also have the ability to participate in various clinical trials through PCI's relationship with the Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University.

About Vitruvian Health

Vitruvian Health, formerly Hamilton Health Care System, is a not-for-profit, fully integrated health system serving the Northwest Georgia and Southeast Tennessee regions. Vitruvian includes Hamilton Medical Center in Dalton, Ga., and Bradley Medical Center in Cleveland, Tenn., affiliated physician practices, walk-in care centers, retirement and skilled nursing centers, a diagnostic center, a cancer institute, an institute for children with developmental delays, and more. Known for its advanced care and personalized service, Vitruvian Health offers innovative treatment options in state-of-the-art facilities while maintaining a compassionate, friendly and tranquil healing environment.

The Vitruvian name draws from the organization's recognizable da Vinci-inspired Vitruvian Man icon, which has been a prominent part of Hamilton's logo since 1976. Da Vinci's Vitruvian Man represents harmony, balance, and the interconnectedness of all aspects of health, perfectly aligning with Hamilton's integrated system of care.