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Officially Assist Health Group

This year, the ColonoscopyAssist and RadiologyAssist programs have gone through a name change. As of January 1, 2020, the name of the program has officially been changed over to Assist Health Group. While the name of the program has changed, the team at Assist Health Group is the same team that you're already familiar with in the same office location!

Going forward, the typical day-to-day operations for each program will remain the same and patients will still refer to each program as ColonoscopyAssist, RadiologyAssist and the newly introduced LaboratoryAssist. For all providers, the name will switch over to Assist Health Group and an updated phone number can be used to reach the program. The new phone number for providers to reach the office at is 888-996-0650.

Celebrating Our 10th Year

We're celebrating our 10th anniversary this year! The program began in 2010 as a way for self-pay patients to schedule hassle-free colon cancer screenings at an all-inclusive flat bundled rate. Throughout the decade, the program has developed into an assistance program for an extensive range of gastroenterology procedures, diagnostic imaging studies and lab work across the country and each year, the program has grown to collaborate with more providers in cities all over the country to meet the needs of self-pay patients. Currently, the program works with a wide network of providers nationwide that share the vision of providing self-pay patients with access to quality care.

We're thrilled about celebrating this milestone and can't wait to see where the next decade brings us. Thank you to everyone that has supported us throughout this eventful decade!



Catching Up With Our Providers

This quarter we had the opportunity to speak with Washington Open MRI CEO Phyllis Newfield about the Stand-Up/Sit-Down MRI technology that Washington Open MRI offers.

What is the difference between the stand-up open MRI and a traditional open MRI machine?

"The technology of the stand-up open MRI at Washington Open MRI allows the advantage of a multitude of positional scans with an enhanced image quality than a standard bed MRI. Scans can be performed under stress and pain which shows a more accurate image, making it less likely to need to redo the scan."

How can this machine and technology benefit patients that are not claustrophobic?

"The positional MRI is certainly a benefit all patients, claustrophobic or not! Even for a patient needing a standard lumbar spine MRI, the stand-up open MRI technology creates a more enhanced image for the ordering physician. Patients from all over the world come to our facilities for their imaging studies for enhanced imaging! The machine has been a benefit to patients with specialty exams, like EDS, for years."

When did you start offering this technology to patients?

"The positional magnet was implemented to our facilities in 2001 and the technology was produced in the late 90s through the early 2000s. This technology seemed risky to other facilities, but we are more than happy to have given this technology a chance."

How is this technology beneficial to patients needing imaging studies?

"Patients are able to stand up, sit down or complete the scan in any position that makes them feel less vulnerable than a standard MRI machine would. Patients can even watch TV or bring a loved one to sit in the room with them during their MRI!"

Any other benefits to choosing Washington Open MRI for a scan?

"At our facilities, the turn-around time is quick and stat appointments can be scheduled same day or next day with reports read and sent to the referring doctor in 24 hours. The technicians at our facilities are MRI certified and also go through additional in-house training to ensure that the scan is accurate and complete."



Stand-Up/Sit-Down Open MRI Machine at Washington Open MRI

Excellence in Patient Care Awards Announced for 2019

To recognize the wonderful physicians that voluntarily collaborate with our program, we decided to create the Excellence in Patient Care Awards. Physicians that received this award were hand selected by patients for their willingness to go above and beyond in providing exceptional care to patients. This year's winners exemplify the highest values of compassion and dedication in medicine. A total of 59 physicians received the award out of 494 physicians that participate in the ColonoscopyAssist program. The winners of the Excellence in Patient Care Award for 2019 are:

Albany, GA- Dr. Robert Aderhold
Arlington Heights, IL- Dr. Kevin Sohn
Arlington, TX- Dr. Rajesh Padmanabhan
Atlanta, GA- Dr. Max Shapiro
Austin, TX- Dr. Sridhar Reddy
Chester, VA- Dr. Gregory Lemite
Creve Coeur, MO- Dr. Steven Abadessa
Denton, TX- Dr. Amjad Awan
Denver, CO- Dr. Aaron Burrows
Denver, CO- Dr. Jonathan Fishman
Denver, CO- Dr. Laura Wolfe
Denver, CO- Dr. Lawrence Miller
Denver, CO- Dr. Stephen New
El Paso, TX- Dr. Allen Karp
Escondido, CA- Dr. Hariitha Chemilla
Escondido, CA- Dr. Ronald Feldman
Gilbert, AZ- Dr. Robert Campbell
Gilbert, AZ- Dr. Sudhakar Reddy
Greenville, SC- Dr. David Palma
Hollywood, FL- Dr. Mark Lamet

Houston, TX- Dr. John Clemmons
Indianapolis, IN- Dr. Arun Gowdamarajan
Indianapolis, IN- Dr. Ateet Shah
Indianapolis, IN- Dr. Patrick White
Lexington, KY- Dr. David Svetich
Lexington, KY- Dr. Nathan Massey
Lincoln, NE- Dr. Andrew Coen
Little Rock, AR- Dr. Brian McGee
Los Angeles, CA- Dr. Adebambo Ojuri
McMinnville, OR- Dr. John Gibson
Middletown, OH- Dr. Daryl Hacker
Montgomery, AL- Dr. Randy Brinson
Monticello, UT- Dr. William Rainer
Nashville, TN- Dr. Jeffrey Eskind
New York, NY- Dr. Jay Desai
Olympia, WA- Dr. John Kuczynski
Olympia, WA- Dr. Keaton Jones
Olympia, WA- Dr. Marshall McCabe
Olympia, WA- Dr. Michelle Thompson
Panama City, FL- Dr. Rayad Albibi

Panama City, FL- Dr. Robert Finlaw
Plano, TX- Dr. Gowri Balachandar
Pomona, CA- Dr. Jason Shin
Raleigh, NC- Dr. John Holt
Redwood City, CA- Dr. James Torosis
Riverdale, MD- Dr. Gulam Mohiuddin
Saint Louis, MO- Dr. Hugo Villarreal
Salt Lake City, UT- Dr. Abigail Crume
San Antonio, TX- Dr. Joseph Johnson
San Mateo, CA- Dr. Edward Onuma
San Mateo, CA- Dr. Eugene Lee
Spring, TX- Dr. Venodhar Julapalli
Sun City Center, FL- Dr. Craig Amshel
Sun City, AZ- Dr. Daryl Hutchinson
Tampa, FL- Dr. Leopoldo Grauer
Tyler, TX- Dr. Gary Boyd
Warminster, PA- Dr. Marc Bierhoff
Woodside, NY- Dr. Padmanabh Paddu
Wyandotte, MI- Dr. Sudarshan Singal

Our Team Just Got Bigger

To start off the year, the Assist Health Group team has gained a new member. Anna has joined our growing team as a part of our billing department. Recently our team has been growing to meet the increasing volume of patients that have been utilizing the program to coordinate their care. To meet the needs of self-pay patients calling into our program daily, we hope to add more members to the team this year!



Leslie and new team member Anna

What do patients think about the program?

Why was ColonoscopyAssist a good fit for your procedure?

"I thought that health insurance would cover the costs, but I ended up having to pay out-of-pocket. Even with insurance, the procedure was too expensive so I turned to ColonoscopyAssist which thankfully made it way more affordable."

What were the other options available to you other than ColonoscopyAssist and why did you ultimately choose the program?

"I had the option of going through my insurance, but it was going to be very expensive at the hospital in my area since my insurance wasn't going to cover it. Through ColonoscopyAssist, I was able to get it done quicker than I would have been able to at the hospital for a much lower price."

If the program did not exist, do you think things would be different for you?

"Yes, it would have been much different. Using ColonoscopyAssist was very easy and they made the process way easier for me."

How was your experience with the providers?

"They were awesome! The doctor and staff made the process of the procedure extremely easy. I think that they did a better job than the local hospital would have been able to do."

Any words to the physicians considering to participate in ColonoscopyAssist?

"They should definitely consider. The people at ColonoscopyAssist that I dealt with through scheduling were great at explaining the process to me. The whole thing was easy and the facility that I went to was awesome. Everyone involved made it easy for me. It's definitely worth it!"



Tracy Morgan

"It's definitely worth it!"
- Tracy Morgan