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In the first study to evaluate barriers and facilitators to colorectal cancer screening in the managed care setting, researchers at UCLA's Jonsson Cancer Center found that four factors contributed to doctors not screening patients for the disease.

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2004 MAY 29 - (NewsRx.com & NewsRx.net) -- Primary care providers do not screen all eligible patients for colorectal cancer, the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States, according to a [University of California](#), Los Angeles (UCLA) study.

In the first study to evaluate barriers and facilitators to colorectal cancer screening in the managed care setting, researchers at UCLA's Jonsson Cancer Center found that four factors contributed to doctors not screening patients for the disease. These factors included misperceptions about how effective colorectal screening tests are, providers forgetting when to screen patients, patients - unaware they were eligible for the tests - not requesting screening and inadequate financial reimbursement for the screening procedures.

"These barriers represent a clear target for health plans, provider organizations and individual physicians to create interventions designed to increase screening in current clinical practice," said Dr. Gareth Dulai, an assistant professor of medicine and the study's lead author. "These interventions could save lives."

The study was published in the May 1, 2004, issue of Cancer.

Interventions suggested in the study included increased educational efforts for patients and physicians, creation and use of a simple screening reminder system and increased reimbursement rates for the screening tests.

Dulai and colleagues at UCLA's Jonsson Cancer Center surveyed 1340 primary care providers in HMOs for the study, which was funded by a grant from the U.S. National Cancer Institute. On average, HMO doctors reported that they recommended colorectal cancer screening to only 79% of eligible patients - approximately half of whom actually completed screening.

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