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***March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month***

Sky Ridge Medical Center Joins Forces with Hundreds of Local and National Organizations to Increase Colorectal Cancer Screening Rates across the Country

Lone Tree, CO, March 29, 2017 – Colorectal cancer screening saves lives. Sky Ridge Medical Center took the pledge to help increase colorectal cancer screening rates by supporting the 80% by 2018 initiative led by the American Cancer Society (ACS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (a coalition co-founded by ACS and CDC).

Colorectal cancer is the nation's third-leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the U.S. when men and women are combined; however, it is one of only a few cancers that can be prevented. Through colorectal cancer screening, doctors can find and remove hidden growths (called "polyps") in the colon, before they become cancerous. Removing these polyps can prevent cancer.

"80% by 2018" is a National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (NCCRT) initiative and the goal is to leverage the energy of multiple, diverse partners to empower communities, patients and providers to increase screening rates to 80% for adults aged 50 and older. According to NCCRT, the 80% by 2018 initiative can prevent 203,000 colorectal cancer deaths by 2030.

"The truth is that simply aging puts you at greater risk for colon cancer. Colorectal cancer in its early stages usually has no symptoms, so everyone 50 and older should get screened. There are several screening options – even take home kits – available today," said Susan Hicks, CEO, Sky Ridge Medical Center. "We are asking all members of our community to get screened and talk to their loved ones and friends about the importance of early detection. Together, we can help make the reduction of colorectal cancer a major public health success story."

Many public and private insurance plans cover colorectal cancer screening and there may be local resources available to help those who are uninsured. During the 9Health Fair on Saturday, April 29 from 7:00 a.m. to Noon at Sky Ridge Medical Center, low-cost colorectal cancer screening kits and education will be available. Register at <https://www.9healthfair.org/>.

## **About Sky Ridge Medical Center**

Sky Ridge Medical Center, the first hospital to open in Douglas County in 2003, is a member of the HealthONE network. HealthONE is the largest healthcare system in the metro Denver area with more than 10,000 employees. As part of the HealthONE family, The Medical Center of Aurora, North Suburban Medical Center, Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center, Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children, Rose Medical Center, Sky Ridge Medical Center, Swedish Medical Center, and Spalding Rehabilitation Hospital work together to provide a higher level of care. In addition, our family of services includes five hospital free-standing emergency departments and numerous ambulatory surgery centers, occupational medicine clinics, physician practices, imaging centers, and AIRLIFE-DENVER, which provides critical care air and ground transportation across a 10-state region. Visit <http://skyridgemedcenter.com/> to learn more.

For more information about the 80% by 2018 initiative, visit [www.nccrt.org](http://www.nccrt.org).