

Medtronic to provide underserved communities with artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted colonoscopy technology through Health Equity Assistance Program for colon cancer screening

Amazon Web Services will support the effort to provide Medtronic GI Genius™ intelligent endoscopy modules to facilities that primarily serve communities with low screening rates or where access to this technology is not currently available, to enable early detection, giving patients a better chance of survival

DUBLIN, Feb. 22, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- [Medtronic plc](#) (NYSE: MDT), a global leader in healthcare technology, and the [American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy \(ASGE\)](#) today announced they are working to provide colorectal cancer screening technologies in low income and underserved communities across the United States through the **Medtronic Health Equity Assistance Program** for colon cancer screening, with support from Amazon Web Services (AWS). The initiative will include the donation of 50 Medtronic GI Genius™ intelligent endoscopy modules to endoscopy centers across the country that can potentially improve the detection of polyps that can lead to colorectal cancer. Certain types of colorectal cancer, when caught early, can have a [survival rate \(five year\) of up to 91%](#); however, it remains the [third most common and third deadliest cancer among adults in the United States](#). With these placements, there is an opportunity to potentially impact more than 350,000 patients over three years.

The goal of this program is to increase early detection and diagnosis in underserved communities.

"Addressing gaps in colorectal cancer screening is complex. We know that [Black adults](#) are more likely to be diagnosed and subsequently die from this disease. There are also disparities in screenings among different groups, including adults in [rural](#) communities," said Douglas K. Rex, M.D., MASGE, president, ASGE.

"Colonoscopy is critical in preventing colorectal cancer and as the global leader in gastrointestinal endoscopy, ASGE is working together with Medtronic to ensure that providers receive screening technology and are able to use them in communities where they are most needed."

AWS has provided computing credits that have made the funding of this program possible and continues to work with Medtronic to support the ongoing development of GI Genius™ and innovative future Medtronic health screening technologies that will further support Medtronic's health equity efforts. ASGE is independently leading the application and [selection process](#) to determine the facilities that otherwise would be unable to fund this innovative solution for underserved patient populations. Initial recipients will be announced in March 2022 during Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

"The crisis of health inequities cannot be solved without expanding access to healthcare technologies that put people first," said Geoff Martha, Medtronic chairman and chief executive officer. "We must begin with local efforts that consider the needs of the community. This program is an important step towards ensuring that our powerful technologies help reduce disparities, improve care and enhance patient outcomes."

The GI Genius intelligent endoscopy module, [authorized by the FDA in April 2021](#), detects colorectal polyps of varying shapes and sizes automatically in real time which helps diagnose and prevent colorectal cancer. It is the first-to-market, computer-aided polyp detection system powered by artificial intelligence (AI) that provides physicians with a powerful solution in the fight to screen, detect and prevent colorectal cancer and an increase of up to [14.4% absolute detection rate \(ADR\)](#). [Each 1% increase in ADR decreases patients' risk of colorectal cancer by 3%](#).

Earlier this month, Medtronic released its [Global Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Annual Report](#), which maps out

the Company's Zero Barriers commitment to remove barriers to opportunity -- including efforts to improve access to healthcare technology. As part of this work, Medtronic introduced several initiatives in 2021 to reduce health inequities among people of color living with diabetes, including supporting the American Diabetes Association's Technology Access Project.

"This effort is part of Medtronic's Zero Barriers approach to building equity within our healthcare system, accelerating our innovation and helping to bring our lifesaving technologies to more patients," said Giovanni Di Napoli, president of the Medtronic Gastrointestinal business, which is part of the Medical Surgical Portfolio at Medtronic. "The program represents a continuation of Medtronic's commitment to health equity anchored in healthcare technology."

"Individual health outcomes should not depend on socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, or neighborhood," said Maggie Carter, global lead for social impact at AWS. "We are pleased to support Medtronic and ASGE as part of AWS's recently launched [health equity program](#) to help these organizations bring effective screening tools to the communities that need them most."

For more information and to apply, visit: [ASGE's program website](#).

About ASGE

Since its founding in 1941, the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) has been dedicated to advancing patient care and digestive health by promoting excellence and innovation in gastrointestinal endoscopy. ASGE, with almost 15,000 members worldwide, promotes the highest standards for endoscopic training and practice, fosters endoscopic research, recognizes distinguished contributions to endoscopy, and is the foremost resource for endoscopic education. Visit [Asge.org](#) and [ValueOfColonoscopy.org](#) for more information.

About Medtronic



Bold thinking. Bolder actions. We are Medtronic. Medtronic plc, headquartered in Dublin, Ireland, is the leading global healthcare technology company that boldly attacks the most challenging health problems facing humanity by searching out and finding solutions. Our Mission — to alleviate pain, restore health, and extend life — unites a global team of 90,000+ passionate people across 150 countries. Our technologies and therapies treat 70 health conditions and include cardiac devices, surgical robotics, insulin pumps, surgical tools, patient monitoring systems, and more. Powered by our diverse knowledge, insatiable curiosity, and desire to help all those who need it, we deliver innovative technologies that transform the lives of two people every second, every hour, every day. Expect more from us as we empower insight-driven care, experiences that put people first, and better outcomes for our world. In everything we do, we are engineering the extraordinary. For more information on Medtronic (NYSE:MDT), visit [www.Medtronic.com](#) and follow [@Medtronic](#) on Twitter and [LinkedIn](#).

Any forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties such as those described in Medtronic's periodic reports on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Actual results may differ materially from anticipated results.

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