

Chris Franca, MD

Consultant Gastroenterology and
Hepatology at Aruba Gastro Clinic



Health Risk Management and Colorectal Cancer Screening in Aruba

Health riskmanagement is an important component of modern public health and aims to identify, assess, mitigate, and monitor health threats within a population. Colorectal cancer represents a significant public health challenge in Aruba, where both the incidence and mortality rates are among the highest in the region. The burden of disease is further amplified by the fact that many patients are diagnosed at an advanced stage, resulting in poorer outcomes, increased healthcare costs, and a greater impact on patients, families, and society.

Recognizing colorectal cancer as a major population health risk, Aruba launched its first organized population-based colorectal cancer screening program in April 2025. The program targets asymptomatic individuals between 45 and 75 years of age using a fecal immunochemical test (FIT) as the primary screening tool, followed by colonoscopy for participants with a positive result.

From a health risk management perspective, the screening program represents a proactive strategy aimed at reducing preventable morbidity and mortality through early detection of colorectal cancer and its precursors, particularly advanced adenomas. The program incorporates structured quality assurance, patient navigation, outcome monitoring, and continuous evaluation to ensure effectiveness and safety.

By shifting the focus from treatment of advanced disease to prevention and early intervention, colorectal cancer screening serves as a practical example of population-based health risk management and contributes to improving long-term health outcomes for the people of Aruba.

Keywords: Health Risk Management, Colorectal Cancer, Population-Based Screening, Early Detection, Cancer Prevention, Quality Assurance, Patient Navigation.



Quality of Healthcare
CONFERENCE IVA 2026
“Risky Business”