

## Colorectal Cancer Screening Newsletter Articles

Please use the following templates to share colorectal cancer screening promotion messages with your partner providers and MCO members:

### Provider Newsletter Articles

#### **Brief:**

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in Maryland, yet it can be detected early and can often be prevented with appropriate screening. Two simple ways you can encourage your patients to get screened are to *recommend colorectal cancer screening* to them and *give them a choice of screening methods*. Talk to your patients about colonoscopy, sigmoidoscopy, or fecal occult blood test for colorectal cancer screening when they turn 50 years old or sooner if they are at high risk.

#### **Extended:**

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in Maryland and the United States. One out of three Marylanders between 50 and 75 years of age are not up-to-date with screening. Patients most often report that they have not been screened because their provider did not recommend it. Many of your patients may be in need of colorectal cancer screening.

By assessing your patients need for colorectal cancer screening and recommending a test that they are likely to complete, you increase the likelihood of them completing screening. Two important ways you can encourage your patients to get screened are to *recommend colorectal cancer screening* to them and *give them a choice of screening methods*. Talk to your patients about colonoscopy, sigmoidoscopy, or fecal occult blood test for colorectal cancer screening when they turn 50 years old or sooner if they are at high risk.

### Member Newsletter Articles

#### **Brief:**

Colorectal cancer often starts with no symptoms and is the second leading cancer killer. There are tests that can help prevent colorectal cancer or detect it early when it can best be treated. If you're of average risk, you should be screened for colorectal cancer when you turn 50 years old. Talk to your primary care provider to determine which screening test is best for you. You can prevent colorectal cancer before it starts.

#### **Extended:**

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer in Maryland and often starts with no symptoms. Both men and women can get colorectal cancer and your risk goes up as you get older. There are tests that can help prevent colorectal cancer or detect it early when it can best be treated. If you are of average risk, screening for colorectal cancer should begin when you turn 50 years old. Your doctor can help you determine if you are average or high risk.

Colorectal cancer screening is painless and certain methods of screening can find and remove precancerous polyps before they turn into cancer. You can prevent colorectal cancer before it starts by talking with your doctor about which screening test is best for you.

*This information is brought to you by the Maryland Colorectal Cancer Control Program. For technical assistance and resources regarding colorectal cancer screening promotion, please call us at 1-800-477-9774.*

