

[DATE]

Dear [PARTICIPATING PROVIDER]:

As a health care provider, you are well aware that colorectal cancer (CRC) is a preventable disease that often starts with no symptoms. Unfortunately, CRC is also the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in Maryland, with 2,360 new cases and 860 deaths estimated in 2015 (American Cancer Society, 2015). Age- and risk-appropriate CRC screening can both prevent new CRC cases and reduce morbidity and mortality from CRC through early detection and treatment.

Evidence suggests that by recommending CRC screening to your patients verbally and in writing, you increase the likelihood that they will get screened. Many patients are willing to be screened for CRC but have not had screening recommended to them. To help you make the most of your limited time to discuss preventive health services with your patients, the Maryland Colorectal Cancer Control Program, in conjunction with Maryland Medicaid, is offering a free tool to aid discussion about CRC screening. This tool has already been implemented in several provider offices that serve a variety of clients, including Medicaid enrollees.

The tool, a few simple questions for patients to answer about their CRC screening history, can be provided to your patients at check-in to complete while they wait for their exam. When your patient meets you in the exam room, you can review and discuss their responses to help you assess the patient's need and preferences for CRC screening. Following that discussion, you can use the bottom tear off portion to give your patient written recommendations for the next step to arrange this preventive care. As an additional resource, the reverse side of the questionnaire includes questions to assess your patients' need for breast and cervical cancer screening. Most Maryland counties and Baltimore City have resources to help eligible clients navigate to or pay for colorectal cancer screening. Please refer to the attached list of Maryland county and Baltimore City programs.

This tool is provided at no cost to you. To order copies, please visit <http://goo.gl/5aegTr> and complete the online order form. You will receive your copies within 1 to 2 weeks of ordering.

We look forward to working with you to best serve your patients. If you have questions about this tool or other ways you can increase cancer screening rates among your patients, please call the Maryland Cancer Line at 1-800-477-9774.

Sincerely,

[SIGNATORY]