



Dear Colleagues:

Colorectal Cancer is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer and the third leading cause of cancer death in men and women in the US. Increasing the use of screening tests can prevent the majority of these cancers and deaths. If caught early, colorectal cancer is one of the most curable cancers. Leading physicians' groups, the Centers for Disease Control, the National Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society all recommend that all people over 50, regardless of their health, undergo screening for Colorectal Cancer. Most people should begin testing at age 50; although people with certain risk factors should be tested earlier or more often.

Did you know?

- This disease affects 1 in 18 people in their lifetime and it occurs 90 percent of the time in people over the age of 50.
- When colon cancers are detected at an early stage, the five-year survival rate is approximately 90% however, because the screening rates are so low, only 39% of colorectal cancers are detected at this stage.
- It is estimated that the PMPM (per member per month) health costs of a person without cancer is around \$360 where a person with Colorectal Cancer cost around \$4,000-\$5,000.
- In fact, people with cancer represent 1.6% of the commercial population but generate about 10% of an insurer's annual medical claim costs.

In an effort to address these issues and to improve patient care and outcomes, the Ohio Colorectal Cancer Coalition (OCCC) was formed to “*increase awareness about colorectal cancer in Ohio to help eliminate the disease through advocacy and action.*” In order to provide education about prevention and early detection of colorectal cancer, the OCCC developed a Resource Toolkit to help employers raise awareness to employees about the importance of following Colorectal Cancer screening guidelines.

The Resource Toolkit includes turnkey solutions that address both screening and treatment for employees.

- Fact Sheets: Risks; symptoms; screening and treatment options
- Tools:
 - Email blasts
 - Newsletters
 - Posters
 - Payroll stuffers
 - Internet sites
 - Pamphlets
 - Example of benefits and policies for employers
 - Onsite programs

Please join the efforts of the OCCC to help increase awareness and screening rates for Colorectal Cancer by utilizing these resources developed for employers and healthcare providers. If you want additional information or have any questions, please feel free to call any of the contacts listed below.

Sincerely,

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