Achieving 80% by 2018: Improving Colon Cancer Screening Rates in Washington, DC

Richard C. Wender, MD
Chief Cancer Control Officer
American Cancer Society, Inc.
Numerous events, accomplishments, and decisions have converged.

Together, they have created an extraordinary opportunity to achieve our goal of 80% colon cancer screening rate by 2018.
We are Making Progress!

*Increasing Decline in Colorectal Cancer Death Rates, 1970-2010*

Decline per decade: 3% 11% 15% 25%
Colorectal Cancer Screening* Prevalence among Adults Age 50 Years and Older by State, 2012

*Either a fecal occult blood test within the past year or a sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy within the past 10 years (includes diagnostic exams).

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Public Use Data Tapes 2012, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
Incidences Rates, 2008-2012
Per 100,000, age adjusted to the 2000 US standard population

Data Source: North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR), 2015
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Death Rates, 2008-2012
Per 100,000, age adjusted to the 2000 US standard population

Data Source: National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2015

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The nation has become energized by the goal of 80% by 2018.

So what will it really take?
Colonoscopy and Stool Testing are Both Critical Strategies

• Every system achieving 80% is relying on stool testing as well as colonoscopy. Both approaches are critical.
We Must Make High Quality Colonoscopy as Widely Available as Possible

• The increase in CRC screening rates between 2000 and 2010 resulted from a 36% increase in colonoscopy rates.

• Getting to 80% demands that colonoscopy must be available to everyone.
COLORECTAL CANCER: Good for 10 years

2015: TESTED
2016: NO TEST NEEDED
2017: NO TEST NEEDED
2018: NO TEST NEEDED
2019: NO TEST NEEDED
2020: NO TEST NEEDED
2021: NO TEST NEEDED
2022: NO TEST NEEDED
2023: NO TEST NEEDED
2024: NO TEST NEEDED
2025: TESTED

FIT: Only good for one year

2015: TESTED
2016: TESTED
2017: TESTED
2018: TESTED
2019: TESTED
2020: TESTED
2021: TESTED
2022: TESTED
2023: TESTED
2024: TESTED
2025: TESTED
Improving Colonoscopy Quality

• Not all colonoscopies are created equal.
• Failure to achieve adequate polyp detection rates compromises the effectiveness of a screening program.
Three Key Components of Colonoscopy Quality

• Screen the right patients at the right intervals.
• Maximize bowel prep quality and patient show rates.
• Monitor adenoma detection rate.
Screening Patients With a Family History

• If patient has either:
  – CRC or adenomas* in a first-degree relative diagnosed at age >60
  OR
  – Two second-degree relatives with CRC

Begin screening at age 40 with any test recommended for average risk; repeat at usual intervals based on type of test and findings.**

*Our expert opinion is that this applies to relatives with advanced adenomas (adenomas that are ≥1 cm, villous, or with high-grade dysplasia) only, recognizing that this information is often unavailable.

**The evidence base for these guidelines was not strong and some aspects are controversial.

Source: Screening and Surveillance for the Early Detection of Colorectal Cancer and Adenomatous Polyps, 2008: A Joint Guideline from the American Cancer Society, the US Multi-Society Task Force on Colorectal Cancer, and the American College of Radiology
Screening Patients With a Family History

• If patient has either:
  – CRC or adenomas* in a first-degree relative diagnosed before age 60 OR
  – Two or more first-degree relatives diagnosed at any age (with family history not suggestive of genetic syndrome)

  Colonoscopy every 5 years starting at age 40, or 10 years before the youngest case in the family was diagnosed, whichever comes first.**

*Our expert opinion is that this applies to relatives with advanced adenomas (adenomas that are ≥1cm, villous, or with high-grade dysplasia) only, recognizing that this information is often unavailable.

**The evidence base for these guidelines was not strong and some aspects are controversial.

Source: Screening and Surveillance for the Early Detection of Colorectal Cancer and Adenomatous Polyps, 2008: A Joint Guideline from the American Cancer Society, the US Multi-Society Task Force on Colorectal Cancer, and the American College of Radiology
Surveillance of Patients with Adenomas at Prior Colonoscopy

• Low-risk adenomas*
  – 1–2 tubular adenomas <10mm

Colonoscopy in 5-10 years

*These recommendations assume that the prior colonoscopy was complete and adequate. For serrated polyps, see Surveillance of Patients with Serrated Polyps at Prior Colonoscopy.

Guidelines for Colonoscopy Surveillance After Screening and Polypectomy: A Consensus Update by the US Multi-Society Task Force on Colorectal Cancer
Surveillance of Patients with Adenomas at Prior Colonoscopy

- High-risk adenomas*
  - 3–10 adenomas <10mm OR
  - >1 adenoma ≥10mm OR
  - >1 adenoma with villous features OR
  - >1 adenoma with high grade dysplasia
  - >10 adenomas

Colonoscopy in 3 years

Colonoscopy in <3 years (consider syndrome)

*These recommendations assume that the prior colonoscopy was complete and adequate. For serrated polyps, see Surveillance of Patients with Serrated Polyps at Prior Colonoscopy.

Guidelines for Colonoscopy Surveillance After Screening and Polypectomy: A Consensus Update by the US Multi-Society Task Force on Colorectal Cancer
Surveillance of Patients with Adenomas at Prior Colonoscopy

- Any adenoma with piecemeal or possibly incomplete excision

Colonoscopy in 2-6 months

*These recommendations assume that the prior colonoscopy was complete and adequate. For serrated polyps, see Surveillance of Patients with Serrated Polyps at Prior Colonoscopy.

Guidelines for Colonoscopy Surveillance After Screening and Polypectomy: A Consensus Update by the US Multi-Society Task Force on Colorectal Cancer
## Recommendations for Adenoma Surveillance After First Surveillance Colonoscopy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline Colonoscopy Finding</th>
<th>First Surveillance Colonoscopy Finding</th>
<th>Interval for Second Surveillance (years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low-risk adenoma (LRA)</td>
<td>• HRA</td>
<td>• 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• LRA</td>
<td>• 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• No adenoma</td>
<td>• 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High-risk adenoma (HRA)</td>
<td>• HRA</td>
<td>• 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• LRA</td>
<td>• 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• No adenoma</td>
<td>• 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Patient Navigation: The Key to Better Show Rates and Better Bowel Preps

• Navigators have been proven to significantly improve colonoscopy show rates and quality of bowel preps.

• Lynn Butterly, MD, in New Hampshire has proven that patient navigation can reduce no-show rate and inadequate bowel prep rate to essentially zero.

• Colonoscopy navigation is now proven to be cost effective and should become a care standard.
The Most Important Measure of Quality Colonoscopy: Adenoma Detection Rate

• Definition: The percent of screening exams with at least one adenoma detected

**Current Targets:**

ADR should be: ≥ 30% male screening patients

≥ 20% female screening patients
ADR and Risk of Interval Cancer

Kaminski; NEJM 2010: 362: 1795-803
ADR and Outcomes: Kaiser

• Data from 314,872 colonoscopies performed between January 1, 1998 and December 31, 2010

• 136 gastroenterologists
  – To be included, GI had to have completed > 300 colonoscopies and 75 or more screening examinations during the study period.

• ADRs ranged from 7.4% to 52.5%.

• 8730 colorectal cancers diagnosed.

Corley et al. NEJM 2014: 370: 1298-1306
ADR and Risk of Interval Cancer

Quintile 1 – ADR < 20%

Quintile 5 – ADR > 33%

Corley et al. NEJM 2014: 370: 1298-1306
ADR and Risk of Fatal Cancer

Quintile 1 – ADR < 20%
Quintile 5 – ADR > 33%

Corley et al. NEJM 2014: 370: 1298-1306
Percent of Colonoscopies Where Biopsy Was Taken (and Findings on Biopsy) for Colonoscopists Who Performed ≥30 Colonoscopies between 7/1/2006 – 3/31/2012 in Average Risk Clients 50+ Years of Age Who Reported No Bleeding in the CRF CRC Screening Program, MD
The Best Way to Improve Colonoscopy Performance

- Gather and share colonoscopy quality data at the level of hospitals and individual colonoscopists.
Every Health System Must Commit to Improving System-wide ADR

• Every system must participate in a colonoscopy registry.

• Registries must monitor:
  – Show rates
  – Prep quality
  – Cecal intubation rates
  – ADR
Standardized colonoscopy reporting and data system: report of the Quality Assurance Task Group of the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable

David Lieberman, MD, Marion Nadel, PhD, Robert A. Smith, PhD, Wendy Atkin, PhD, Subash B. Duggirala, MD, MPH, FAAFP, Robert Fletcher, MD, MSc, Seth N. Glick, MD, C. Daniel Johnson, MD, Theodore R. Levin, MD, John B. Pope, MD, Michael B. Potter, MD, David Ransohoff, MD, Douglas Rex, MD, Robert Schoen, MD, Paul Schroy, MD, Sidney Winawer, MD

Portland, Oregon, USA
We Must Also Ensure that Anyone Can Be Offered a Home Stool Blood Test

• Even if you recommend colonoscopy for all, some people won’t get one, can’t get one, or shouldn’t get one.

• Using colonoscopy exclusively will, inevitably, lead to a screening gap.
Stool Blood Testing Remains Important in the “Age of Colonoscopy”

- Colonoscopy is now the most frequently used screening test for CRC.
- However, when provided annually to average-risk patients with appropriate follow-up, stool occult blood testing with high-sensitivity tests can provide similar reductions in mortality compared to colonoscopy and some reduction in incidence.
Advantages of Stool Blood Testing

- Stool blood testing
  - Is less expensive.
  - Can be offered by any member of the health team.
  - Requires no bowel preparation.
  - Can be done in privacy at home.
  - Does not require time off work or assistance getting home after the procedure.
  - Is non-invasive and has no risk of causing pain, bleeding, bowel perforation, or other adverse outcomes.

Colonoscopy is required only if stool blood testing is abnormal.
Many Patients Prefer Home Stool Testing

• Diverse sample of 323 adults given detailed side-by-side description of FOBT and colonoscopy*
  • 53% preferred FOBT.
  • Almost half felt very strongly about their preference.

• 212 patients at four health centers in Texas rated different screening options with different attributes**
  • 37% preferred colonoscopy.
  • 31% preferred FOBT.

*Community-based Preferences for Stool Cards versus Colonoscopy in Colorectal Cancer Screening
**Preferences for colorectal cancer screening among racially/ethnically diverse primary care patients
Many Patients Prefer Home Stool Testing

- Randomized clinical trial in which 997 ethnically diverse patients in San Francisco community health centers received different recommendations for screening.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Recommended</th>
<th>Completion Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colonoscopy recommended</td>
<td>38% completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOBT recommended</td>
<td>67% completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colonoscopy or FOBT</td>
<td>69% completed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Adherence to Colorectal Cancer Screening: A Randomized Clinical Trial of Competing Strategies*
Many Patients Prefer Home Stool Testing

• Some patients may forgo ANY colorectal cancer screening if they are not offered a home stool blood testing alternative to colonoscopy.

• Clinical evidence indicates that selecting annual stool blood testing instead of colonoscopy is a reasonable choice for average-risk patients.

• However, patients who select stool blood testing must also be prepared to accept follow-up colonoscopy if the stool blood test is abnormal.
Fecal Immunochemical Tests (FITs) Should Replace Guaiac FOBT

- FITs
  - Demonstrate superior sensitivity and specificity
  - Are specific for colon blood and are unaffected by diet or medications
  - Some can be developed by automated readers
  - Some improve patient participation in screening

Fecal Immunochemical Tests (FIT)

FIT tests are based on the immunochemical detection of human hemoglobin (Hb) as an indicator of blood in the stool.

Immunochemical tests use a monoclonal or polyclonal antibody that reacts with the intact globin protein portion of human hemoglobin.

More user friendly!
FIT was More Effective for CRC Screening than FOBT

- Population based random sample of 20,623 individuals, 50-75 yrs (Netherlands)
- Tests and invitations were sent together
- 1 FIT (I-FOBT) vs. 3 G-FOBT samples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FIT</th>
<th>FOBT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>6157(60%)</td>
<td>4836(47%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pos. rate</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polyps</td>
<td>679</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adv. Adenoma</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# FITs Available in the US

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>InSure</td>
<td>Enterix, Quest Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemoccult-ICT</td>
<td>Beckman-Coulter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instant-View</td>
<td>Alpha Scientific Designs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MonoHaem</td>
<td>Chemicon International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clearview Ultra-FOB</td>
<td>Wampole Laboratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fit-Chek</td>
<td>Polymedco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemosure One Step</td>
<td>WHPM, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magstream Hem Sp</td>
<td>Fujirebio, Inc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hemoccult ICT, HemeSelect, InSure, Fit-Chek, and MagStream 1000/Hem SP have been evaluated in large numbers.

Levi Z, Ann Intern Med. 2007; 146:244-55
ACS Guidelines Update

• The ACS Colorectal Cancer Advisory Groups concluded that the current evidence, “provide a persuasive argument that [immunochemical tests] offer enhanced specificity in colorectal cancer screening over guaiac-based testing.”

• “..in comparison with guaiac-based tests for the detection of occult blood, immunochemical tests are more patient friendly, and are likely to be equal or better in sensitivity and specificity.”
Remember: Stool Collection Should Be Done AT HOME!

- Stool collected on rectal exam may not be sufficient or sufficiently representative of stool collected from a complete bowel movement.
- There is **no evidence** that any type of stool blood testing is sufficiently sensitive when used on a stool sample collected during a rectal exam.
- Therefore, **HS-gFOBT and FIT should be completed by the patient at home, and NOT as an in-office test.**
10 Components of the Strategic Plan to Achieve 80% by 2018
10 Components of the 80% by 2018 Strategic Plan

1. The 80% by 2018 campaign has gone viral.
2. We’re not getting anywhere near 80% without relying on our nation’s primary care clinicians.
3. Approaching this state-by-state has broad appeal.
4. Engaging health care plans is difficult but critically important.
5. Hospitals and Cancer Centers can be the difference between our reaching this goal or not.
10 Components of the 80% by 2018 Strategic Plan

6. Working with large employers and CEOs is a strategy worth exploring.

7. We need to use tailored messages to reach the unscreened.

8. Financial barriers persist as major obstacles to screening.

9. Finding the right set of complementary strategies is a key goal.

10. We must floor the accelerator right now and keep pedal to the metal for the next four years.
1. The 80% by 2018 Campaign Has Gone Viral

• The world loves a good goal. As public health stories go, this one works really well.
• Organizations are eager to pull together to get something important done.
More and More Organizations Are Signing the Pledge

Shared Goal: Reaching 80% Screened for Colorectal Cancer by 2018

Background
Colorectal cancer is a major public health problem. It is the second leading cause of cancer death, and a cause of considerable suffering among more than 140,000 adults diagnosed with colorectal cancer each year. However, colorectal cancer can be prevented early in a curable stage, and it can be prevented through the detection and removal of precancerous polyps.

Commitment
Our organizations stand united in the belief that we can eliminate colorectal cancer as a major public health problem. We have screening technologies that work, the national capacity to apply these technologies, and effective local models for delivering the curriculum of care in an organized fashion. Equal access to care is everyone’s responsibility. We share a commitment to eliminating disparities in access to care. As such, our organizations will work to empower communities, patients, providers, community health centers and health systems to embrace these models and develop the partnerships needed to deliver coordinated, quality colorectal cancer screening and follow up care that enables patients and providers them to complete needed care from screening through treatment and long-term follow-up.

Pledge
The New York Citywide Colon Cancer Control Coalition (CC3) is embracing the shared goal of reaching 80% screened for colorectal cancer by 2018.

New York Citywide Colon Cancer Control Coalition
More Organizations Are Taking the Pledge
More Organizations Are Taking the Pledge

690 and counting!
80% by 2018 Lights Up Chicago

Health Care Service Corporation (Blue Cross Blue Shield of IL, TX, OK, NM, and MT) used its building lights in Chicago to promote 80% by 2018.
Even Niagara Falls Went Blue!
Several practice groups have achieved some amazing increases in screening rates.
Political leaders are making 80% by 18 a priority.
Community health centers are at 80%
Community Health Centers at 80%

- Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center, NY
- Sterling Area Health Center, MI
- Richford Health Center, VT
- Inland Behavioral & Health Services, CA
- Costa Salud Community Health Centers, PR
- North End Community Health Committee, MA
- Suncoast Community Health Centers, FL
- School Health Clinics of Santa Clara County, CA
Community Health Centers at 80%

- MyCare Health Center, MI
- Clinica de Salud del Valle de Salinas, CA
- DFD Russell Medical Center, ME
- Bee Busy Wellness Center, TX
- Clinica Monsenor Oscar A. Romero, CA
- Covenant House, PA
- Family Health Centers of Georgia
- Cactus Health Centers, Tx
Community Health Centers at 80%

• Stony Creek Community Health Center, VA
• Patillas Community Governing Board, PR
• Konza Prairie Community Health Center, KS
• Care Net of Lancaster, SC
• Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, AK
Health plans are at 80%
Let’s Pledge to
Maintain This Momentum ...

On the road to 2018
2. We’re Not Getting to 80% Without Relying on Primary Care

• The basics of screening have not changed:
  – Health insurance facilitates screening.
  – Everyone needs a primary care clinician.
  – The principal determinant of screening is whether or not a primary care clinician recommends screening.

But this is asking a lot.
The Realities of Primary Care Practice

• Many competing priorities
• Many preventive care obligations
• Many have EMRs – but they don’t always help
• What will it take to help primary care clinicians lead the way to 80%?
What Influences a Physician’s Likelihood to Recommend Screening?

- **Preventive visits**
  - More visits, more likely to recommend.

- **Financial incentives**
  - Linking substantial payment to colon cancer screening rates can have a huge influence
  - Link payment to other measures of quality, too.

- **Being part of a system that values screening**
  - Hospital systems
  - ACOs
Barriers to CRC Screening in Community Health Centers

• Inadequate access to colonoscopy and follow-up care
• Cost of FIT’s
• Barriers to patient receptiveness and adherence
Inadequate Access to Colonoscopy: Strategies that Work

• Rely on FOBT/FIT
  – First time around, positivity rate may reach 5%
  – 2 to 3% in subsequent rounds
  – Can calculate how many colonoscopies will be needed

• Recruit as many colonoscopy groups as possible
  – Important to share the load. Don’t overload any one group

• Partner with a hospital system that shares a commitment to the 80 by 18 goal
  – Can help to ensure access to colonoscopy and follow-up care
Cost of FIT’s

- FIT’s may cost 5 times more than guaiac FOBT
- Can be a barrier if FQHC needs to pay for the test, particularly for uninsured

- Solutions:
  - Join with other groups for cheaper rates
  - Choose a high performing but more affordable FIT
  - Look for donated FIT’s; paid for by insurance so the company can get some reimbursement
  - Use guaiac if needed
We Now Have Tailored Messages to Reach the Unscreened

- We have conducted market research with a large group of unscreened Americans.

“\textit{A Colonoscopy with a friend ... Priceless}”

Long-time friends Judy Hagan and Cindy Blessing were riding in the car one day when both realized they were overdue for their colonoscopies. With family histories of colon cancer, both women understood the importance of the screening. Without delay, Judy grabbed her cell phone and called to make appointments for both of them on the same day. Read about their unique experience together at The Hansen Center.
Evidence-Based Messages are now Available

- General messages to encourage screening will not be effective.
- NCCRT members are ready to commit to common messages.
Barriers to Consumer Screening – Factors

#1: Affordability
- “I do not have health insurance and would not be able to afford this test. I do not feel the need to have it done.”

#2: Lack of symptoms
- “Doctors are seen when the symptoms are evidently presumed, not before.”

#3: No family history of colon cancer
- “Never had any problems and my family had no problems, so felt it wasn't really necessary.”

#1 reason among 50-64 year olds & Hispanics

Nearly ½ uninsured

#1 reason among 65+ year olds
Barriers to Consumer Screening – *Factors*

**#4: Perceptions about the unpleasantness of the test**
- “I do not think it is a good idea to stick something where the sun don’t shine. The yellow Gatorade I cannot stomach.”

**#5: Doctor did not recommend it**
- “I fear it will be uncomfortable. My doctor has never mentioned it to me, so I just let it go.”

**#6: Priority of other health issues**
- “I just turned 50 and I am dealing with another health issue, so it’s on the back burner.”

#1 reason among Black/African Americans;
#3 reason among Hispanics
Activating Messages That Motivate

Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S., when men and women are combined, yet it can be prevented or detected at an early stage.

There are several screening options available, including simple take home options. Talk to your doctor about getting screened.

Preventing colon cancer, or finding it early, doesn’t have to be expensive. There are simple, affordable tests available. Get screened! Call your doctor today.
Reaching Unscreened Hispanic Audiences: Research Findings

There is a lack of information among Hispanics about what colon cancer is and the tests used to screen for colon cancer. This lack of info is a huge barrier to getting this population screened.

There is also a lack of specific knowledge that a colonoscopy is used to detect and prevent cancer.

Fear, especially, fear of the unknown, came to the top as a major barrier. This fear often leads to procrastination or putting off the test.
Affordability or lack of insurance is another top barrier among this population.

Among males, the “machismo” effect also holds them back from making health decisions, including CRC screening.

According to Hispanics, physicians are either not giving a recommendation for screening or are not being stern enough in their recommendation.

Colon cancer as the #2 cancer killer among Hispanics is a particularly motivating message for Hispanics.
Top Messages for Unscreened Hispanic Audiences
If you are 50 or older, you’re at a higher risk for colon cancer — even if you are healthy. Ask your doctor for a screening test. You can do a simple test at home.

- Respondents were motivated by age.
- “Even if you are healthy” was a key motivator.
- The idea of a simple test at home was an added bonus.
Everyone related to the “family” message.
• “Don’t procrastinate any longer” was a strong message.
• Made people worry about how they are doing disservice to their families by not getting screened.

You are so important to your family, don’t let them down! Don’t procrastinate any longer! Get screened for colon cancer today! It could save your life.
Hi, my name is Maria. I lost my father to colon cancer. He was too stubborn to get screened, but the cancer might have been prevented if he did. Don’t let your family lose you, too. Get screened and prevent colon cancer.

- When this message was chosen, it hit home very strongly at an emotional level – sometimes even bringing tears to their eyes.

- The message was most effective for fathers, particularly those that may have been putting off screening tests because they are too “macho.”
Colon cancer is the second-leading cancer killer in the U.S. among Hispanics, but it doesn’t have to be. Colon cancer can be prevented or found at an early stage. Getting screened is absolutely necessary! Call a doctor today.

- Leading with the statistic was the key motivating aspect of this message.
- The stern tone also makes the message more effective with Latinos.
- Fear motivates them to action, while the idea that the cancer can be prevented gives them hope.
Colorectal Cancer “Prevention” is a Very Important Motivator but also Very Difficult to Communicate

• The messages we set out to test were not effective in communicating that colon cancer can be prevented through a screening test.

• Many participants equated prevention to healthy eating and saw the tests as a way of “detecting” and not “preventing.”
Colon cancer starts with a polyp in the large intestine. Polyps are very common in people age 50 and older, but they can be detected and removed before they turn into cancer. Don’t die of cancer. Talk to your doctor about colon cancer prevention.

- This message was created while in the field in an attempt to better communicate the intended idea of prevention. It succeeded.
- Helped Latinos understand how “detection” can be “prevention.”
Payment is Critical

• High performing primary care practice requires a substantial change in payment model:
  - Payment for case management
  - Payment for improved performance
  - Payment for care coordination
  - Percentage of total health care dollars going to primary care must increase
How Much Additional Payment is Enough?

• Requirements for high performing practices
  – EMR: Patient registries
  – Case managers
  – Population health managers
  – Improved support staff/clinician ratios

• Payment linked to quality must be substantial and it must be incremental.
3. Approaching this State-by-State Holds Broad Appeal

• Numerous states are in the process of forming state Colon Cancer Screening Roundtables or Coalitions.

• States **without** a history of NCCRT involvement are getting on board for the first time.

• Cities and states **love competition** – no one likes being at the bottom of the list.
More and More State-Level Engagement
What Do States Want and Need?

• Data
  – What is our starting screening rate?
  – How do we set and measure interim targets?
  – What regions offer the most opportunity?

• Goals
  – Set a state goal and get state-wide, multi-stakeholder buy-in.

• Ideas
  – What is working in similar states?
  – What screening strategies should we adopt?
  – How can we ensure that colonoscopy is broadly available?
Let’s Be Little League: Everyone’s a Winner

- Some states are out in front. Some are far behind.
- But the playing field is not even.

- We will celebrate the first state to reach 80%

... but we will celebrate, with equal joy, every state that is working hard to get the nation closer to our 80% goal.
4. Engaging Health Care Plans is Critically Important

- Health care plans have a broad agenda and many demands.
- Although improving HEDIS measures is a valued goal, controlling health care costs, reducing readmissions, and managing chronic illness may be viewed as more urgent goals.
- Competition with other plans may be intense.
But Some Health Plans Are Doing an Amazing Job

Commercial

• Anthem Health Plans of Maine, Inc./Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield (BCBS) – Maine
• Anthem Health Plans, Inc./Anthem BCBS – Connecticut
• Anthem BCBS – Connecticut
• BCBS of Massachusetts HMO Blue, Inc.
• Capital Health Plan, Inc.
• Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, Inc.
• Johns Hopkins US Family Health Plan
Plans at 80%

Commercial
• Kaiser Foundation Health Plan Inc. – Southern California
• Kaiser Foundation Health Plan Inc. – Mid-Atlantic States
• Kaiser Foundation Health Plan Inc. – Northern California
• Geisinger Health Plan
• Health Partners – Minnesota
• Independence Blue Cross - Southeast Pa.
• Martin’s Point US Family Health Plan – Maine
• United Healthcare of Wisconsin, Inc.
• The Veteran’s Administration
Plans at 80%

Medicare

• BCBSMA PPO
• Capital Health Plan
• Cigna – AZ
• Coventry Health Plan of Florida
• Group Health Plan
• Gunderson Health Plan
• HealthSpring of Tennessee
Plans at 80%

- Humana Florida
- Kaiser – CA (Southern California)
- Kaiser Permanente Colorado
- Kaiser Georgia
- Kaiser – Mid-Atlantic
- Kaiser Permanente Northwest
- Kaiser – HI
- Kaiser – CA (Northern CA)
Plans at 80%

- Leon Medical Centers Health Plans
- MMM Healthcare
- Optima Health Plan
- Peoples Health
- PMC Medicare Choice
- Providence Health Plans
- Texas HealthSpring
- United Healthcare of New York
Characteristics of High Performing Plans

• Leadership – a commitment to achieve very high screening rates
• A champion – or more than one
• A commitment to measurement and reporting of screening rates
• Implementation of population health management
• Reliance on both stool testing and colonoscopy
• Incentives and accountability for primary care providers
• Elimination of patient cost sharing
Leadership Commitment and a Champion

• **Leadership** from the very top of the organization, with clear expectations of excellence, is seen in all high performing plans.

• A **Champion**, someone who owns, understands, and directs the work, is universally present.
A Commitment to Measurement and Reporting of Screening Rates

• The basic maxim of quality improvement: Nothing gets better without measurement and sharing of the data.
• Making sure all stakeholders own the goal, and know where the health plan stands, makes a big difference.
Reliance on Both Stool Blood Testing and Colonoscopy

• Exclusive colonoscopy plans are achieving 70% screening rates – but not above that.
• Making colonoscopy as widely available as possible is critically important.
• Health plans must understand the advantage of FIT testing.
  – Pick a preferred FIT
  – Make them available
  – Educate clinicians
Incentives and Accountability for Primary Care Clinicians

• The single most effective strategy for health plans striving for high CRC screening rates:

  Link substantial financial payment to achievement of high CRC screening rates.
Models of Incentives for Primary Care Clinicians

- Payment linked to becoming certified PCMH
- Pay for performance – with a focus on CRC screening, as well as other quality measures
- Increasing payment rates for primary care allows more time to focus on quality
- Payment for screening navigators
Eliminating Cost-Sharing

• Patients **should not receive a surprise bill** when a polyp is found on colonoscopy.

• This is equivalent to charging a co-pay when the screening mammogram is abnormal.

• Patients **should not receive a bill** when a colonoscopy is performed in response to a positive FOBT/FIT.
Eliminating Cost-Sharing in Medicare

• Medicare has the authority, without legislative action, to eliminate cost-sharing for colonoscopies that follow a positive stool test.

• The basics of the argument:
  – Redefining the screening guidelines as: “Annual FOBT/FIT with colonoscopy for those testing positive”
  – Colonoscopy is already accepted as a stand alone screen
  – The possibility of cost-sharing is actually providing a disincentive to choosing the more affordable option
Eliminating Cost-Sharing in Medicare

• Medicare does not have the authority to eliminate cost-sharing if a polyp is found on screening colonoscopy, including the colonoscopy following a positive stool test.
• A bi-partisan bill to eliminate cost-sharing is working its way through Congress.
5. Hospitals and Cancer Centers Can Make the Difference

- 80% by 2018 offers a unique opportunities to build integrated systems that can prevent more than 200,000 colon cancer deaths by 2030.
Five Steps to Hospital Leadership of 80% by 2018

1. Recognize and overcome barriers to participation.
2. Identify a champion (or champions).
3. Publicly commit to achieving this goal.
4. Assemble a team.
5. Implement the 80% by 2018 Strategic Plan.
Recognize and Overcome Barriers to Hospital Leadership of 80% by 2018

- Hospital incentives largely encourage provision of complex cancer care.
- Many hospitals don’t belong to an ACO or own a primary care network.
- Many hospitals have never led a public health campaign before.
- Many hospitals have difficulty defining “the population” for whom they’re responsible.
- Hospitals may be reluctant to donate more services than they already donate.
- Hospitals may not see the business case.
The Business Case for Hospital Leadership

• New payment models are linked to quality.
• Bringing together a multi-disciplinary team that combines population management, out-patient primary and specialty care, facilities, and hospital care is outstanding preparation for the future of medicine.
• Achieving 80% by 2018 can establish a hospital as a leader in colon cancer care.
• Reduce un-reimbursed care for advanced disease.
... And Most Important of All

• It’s the right thing to do!
• The entire hospital community can celebrate achieving something wonderful.
Identify Champions!

• Virtually every high-performing colon cancer screening system has a Champion.
• This is tough work – someone needs to provide the leadership to bring everyone together.
• Commission on Cancer Hospital Liaison Physician can be that Champion.
Publicly Commit to Achieving this Goal

• Signing the Pledge is fantastic ... but only if a hospital is truly ready to achieve this goal.
• Sign the pledge.
• Make a fuss!
• Go very public ... and then get to work.
Assemble a Team

• Increasing the quality of colon cancer care demands all hands on deck:
  – Primary care
  – Gastroenterologists
  – Patient navigators – Should now be a standard of care
  – Anesthesiologists
  – Surgeons
  – All of their teams
  – Insurers
  – Employers
Implement the Strategic Plan

80% by 2018

Hospitals working together to save lives
What Does it Take to Execute a Population-Based Screening Program?

• IARC cancer prevention framework identifies 6 criteria:
  1. An explicit screening policy with specified age categories, screening methods, and intervals
  2. A defined population
  3. A management team responsible for implementation
  4. A health care team responsible for decisions and care
  5. A quality-assurance structure
  6. A method for identifying cancer occurrence in the population

**Example: Kaiser Permanente of Northern California – IARC Criteria**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Screening Policy</th>
<th>FIT annually or colonoscopy every 10 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Defined Population</td>
<td>Enrolled KPNC members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Management Team</td>
<td>Centralized and decentralized medical providers and executive leads</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Example: Kaiser Permanente of Northern California – IARC Criteria

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Health Care Team</strong></td>
<td>Both screening and cancer care offered as a part of the program within the integrated system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5. Quality Assurance</strong></td>
<td>Quality reports: Regional KPNC registry and California SEER registry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6. Identifying Cancer</strong></td>
<td>Centers of Excellence use the registry for cancer care using interdisciplinary care teams</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### KPNC: Demographics and Population-Based Strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Population Demographics</strong></th>
<th>Approximately 54% females, 94% Caucasian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population-Based Strategies</strong></td>
<td><strong>System-based</strong>: Leveraging EMRs to identify eligible patients, automated phone and mail outreach to the patients, FluFIT Program offering FIT at the flu vaccine clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Provider-based</strong>: EMR alerts to providers at the time of clinical visits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

KPNC: Population-Based Screening Program Results

37%  Initial Screening Rates in 2005

79%  Outcome Screening Rates in 2012

6. Engaging Large Employers and CEOs is a Strategy Worth Exploring

• To more effectively impact health care plans, we will need to more effectively engage with their customers – employers and CEOs.

• Employers have a wonderful opportunity to help the nation achieve a critical public health goal.
Achieving 80% by 2018: The Role of Employers

• Create a culture of wellness across the enterprise.
• Educate employees and their families about colon cancer risk.
• Make it easier for individuals to get screened.
• Create incentives.
• Serve as role models.
8. Financial Barriers Persist as Major Obstacles to Screening

• To substantially increase screening rates, strategies to reach individuals without health insurance and on Medical Assistance must be developed.

• Federally Qualified Health Centers and academic primary care clinics serve as the safety net for many low income individuals.
Finding the Right Set of Complementary Strategies is a Key Goal

- Should we focus on working with primary care to implement population management?
- Or should we work on tailored messages to the unscreened?
- Or would it be better to focus on working with hospitals or health care plans?
Here’s the painful truth: There is nothing we can do to reach 80% colon cancer screening rates by 2018

... except everything.
10. We Must Floor the Accelerator and Keep Pedal to the Metal for the Next Four Years

- We have made the commitment to increase CRC screening rates by 15% in five years ... and we only have three years left to do it.

- Every member organization needs to participate in a national plan but also have their own plan to pursue the interventions that they are uniquely positioned to do.
We Need More Partners

• One way to keep the momentum going is to keep enlisting new partners, creating new ways to convene, and setting more and more segmented, local goals.
Achieving 80% colon cancer screening rates by the end of 2018 will be very difficult.
Our goal is big ...

... but so is the potential impact.
If we can achieve 80% by 2018, **277,000 cases** and **203,000 colon cancer deaths** would be **prevented** ... ... by 2030.
In Washington, DC, that’s **453 cases** and **332 deaths** avoided ... … by 2030.
Colon Cancer
Catching it early

Despite substantial decreases in colorectal cancer rates over the past two decades, it remains the third-leading cancer in the United States among both men and women. Regular screening can help.

80% can see it!

I CAN see it!