



## Colorectal Cancer Screening Saves Lives

Screening for colorectal cancer can help find cancer early, when it might be easier to treat. Physicians and other clinicians are well aware of the benefits of screening, but many patients are not up to date with screening.

Colorectal cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States among men and women combined, but screening can help prevent colorectal cancer. Approximately 135,000 new cases and more than 50,000 deaths are estimated in 2017.

Talking with a physician or other clinician is one of the biggest factors that influences whether a patient is screened for colorectal cancer. You can help more patients get screened by discussing screening options and the risks and benefits of those options with your patients.

### Did you know?

- Studies have shown that annual high-quality stool tests, such as high sensitivity GUIAC and fecal immunochemical tests can lower the risk of developing and dying from CRC.<sup>1</sup>
- Use stool tests only for average risk patients (no personal or family history of CRC, adenomas, or genetic syndromes).

*(continued on back)*



■ Patients are often aware of colonoscopy as an option for screening, but they might not know as much about stool testing. ■



- Make sure patients perform annual stool testing if they selecting gFOBT or FIT tests and that they understand the instructions in the kit they are using.
- Stool samples should never be used for CRC screening if they are obtained by digital rectal exam because they have a low sensitivity for cancer
- All patients who have a positive stool test must have a follow-up colonoscopy.
- WellCare covers one screening test a year
- WellCare has provided over 70,000 FIT kits to patients for easy screening

- Review ACS CRC Screening guidelines to determine your patient's risk category and screening recommendations.
- Review the risks and benefits of all CRC screening tests with your patients. If they are at average risk, discuss high quality stool based screening and offer them the choice that is right for them. Make sure they understand the risks and benefits of high-quality stool-based testing.

**Thank you for working with WellCare to make sure our members — your patients — get the care they need.**

<sup>1</sup>Smith RA, Andrews KS, Brooks D, Fedewa SA, Manassaram-Baptiste D, Saslow D, Brawley OW, Wender RC. Cancer screening in the United States, 2017: A review of current American Cancer Society guidelines and current issues in cancer screening. *CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*, 67: 100–121. doi:10.3322/caac.21392.

