

# Special Bulletin

For professional providers

February 28, 2023

## March Is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month – Patient Resources Available

Colorectal cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer-related deaths, according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#). Highmark has resources available — that practices may order at no cost — to educate patients about the importance of screening for colorectal cancer.

### Screenings are Essential

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends all adults be screened for colorectal cancer starting at age 45. Individuals at an elevated risk — whether due to lifestyle factors and/or family history — may necessitate earlier or more frequent screening.

The U.S. Multi-Society Task Force has classified the various colorectal cancer screening modalities based on performance and effectiveness.<sup>1</sup> Colonoscopy and annual fecal immunochemical test (FIT) are both classified as tier-1 screening recommendations.

### Highmark Preventive Health Guidelines

Highmark Preventive Health Guidelines include colorectal cancer screenings for eligible members. Please note that most, although not all, of our employer groups follow the Highmark Preventive Schedule. Therefore, not all Highmark members may have coverage for services on the preventive schedule.

To access the Preventive Health Guidelines, go to the **Provider Resource Center > EDUCATION/MANUALS > Preventive Health Guidelines**.

### Resources for Patients/Members

Highmark provides the following free resources to share the importance of prevention with your patients and staff:

- [Colorectal Cancer Brochure](#)
- [Colorectal Cancer Screening Flyer](#)
- [Colorectal Cancer Screening Reminder Card](#)
- [Health Screening and Vaccination Tracker](#) (Spanish version available)

To order, go to the **Provider Resource Center > EDUCATION/MANUALS > Inventory Request Form > Select Printable Item**. Click the down arrow and then select the items you wish to order. Complete the form and click the **ADD TO ORDER** button.

## References

<sup>1</sup>*Colorectal Cancer Screening: Recommendations for Physicians and Patients From the U.S. Multi-Society Task Force on Colorectal Cancer. AJG 2017;112(7):1016-1030. doi:10.1038/ajg.2017.174*

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