

Week 5 (March 30):

National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month is over, but that doesn't mean the messages to your patients should stop until next year. Remind patients who have taken home a fecal occult blood test kit to use it. Follow up with patients on all screening results, even negative ones—everyone likes to hear good news.

Remember, the appropriate follow-up for a positive fecal occult blood test result is a colonoscopy, not another fecal occult blood test.

For more information about Medicare's colorectal cancer screening benefit, including coverage, coding, billing, and reimbursement, refer to "The Guide to Medicare Preventive Services for Physicians, Providers, Suppliers, and Other Health Care Professionals" located at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/mps_guide_web-061305.pdf on the CMS Medicare Learning Network (MLN) web page. In addition, CMS has issued Special Edition MLN Matters article SE0613 on colorectal cancer screening—click on the following link <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0613.pdf> to review this article.

The CMS website also has a prevention website which contains a section on colorectal cancer screening. Click on www.cms.hhs.gov, select "Medicare", and scroll down to "Prevention" to find the colorectal cancer screening section.

Thank you for helping CMS spread the word regarding the importance of colorectal cancer screening. We are interested in knowing if the information we have provided over the last few weeks has been helpful, and if it has influenced your colorectal cancer screening practices. Please e-mail us at: Prevention@cms.hhs.gov

Thank you.