



STATE OF MARYLAND
DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary

Family Health Administration

Russell W. Moy, M.D., M.P.H., Director – Joan H. Salim, Deputy Director

February 14, 2008

Dear Colleague,

With your help, Maryland has become a national leader in Public Health Screening for Colorectal Cancer (CRC). Between 2000 and December 31, 2007, Maryland Public Health programs funded by the Cigarette Restitution Funding and additional funding from the CDC in 2006-6007, screened 19,482 people for CRC most of whom were low income, un-insured or under-insured residents: **12,108** were screened with colonoscopy, **8,301** were screened with FOBT. The program has detected **141** cancers and **2,585** people with adenomas (including **49** adenomas with high grade dysplasia).

Our next challenge is to have **endoscopists report colonoscopy findings more consistently.**

Reporting of:

- **adequacy of bowel prep,**
- **whether the cecum was reached, and**
- **size, number, and location of polyps and other lesions, etc.**

is essential for accurately determining appropriate patient management and the colonoscopy recall interval.

The CRC Medical Advisory Committee suggests that the article, “Standardized colonoscopy reporting and data system (CoRADS): report of the Quality Assurance Task Group of the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable,” Lieberman et al., *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy* 2007; 65: 757-766 (Attachment 1) and the Checklist for Colonoscopy Reporting (Attachment 2) may be very helpful. **We recommend that endoscopists follow the CoRADS in their endoscopy practice and in their reporting.** The Checklist is provided in “Pocket” and “Wall Chart” formats. The article suggests self-assessment as a means to self-improvement regarding colonoscopy reporting.

We hope these will be useful to you as we continue our efforts to assure a quality colorectal cancer screening program for the residents of Maryland. If you have questions or comments, please call Diane Dwyer, M.D., at 410-767-5088 or ddwyer@dhmh.state.md.us. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Stanley Watkins, M.D.
Chairman, Medical Advisory Committee

Attachments

Toll Free 1-877-4MD-DHMH • TTY for Disabled - Maryland Relay Service 1-800-735-2258

Web Site: www.dhmh.state.md.us