Increasing Patient Awareness, Education and Access to Improve Completion Rates of Colorectal

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Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the third most common cancer in both genders in the United States. Two screening modalities that have been widely studied include: Colonoscopy being the most accurate in early detection and prevention of CRC. Fecal immunochemical test (FIT) which is less invasive and cost effective.

Low income/underserved populations tend to have lower screening rates regardless of the modality (Table 1) and may be associated with certain risk factors making them a higher risk group (Table 2).

**Quality Improvement Aims**
- Understand what barriers our population faced and how to alleviate them
- If increasing patient awareness and education would improve CRC screening compliance rates
  - Increase referrals for colorectal screening by 15% with either FIT ordering or colonoscopy referrals
  - Increase completed colorectal screening by 10% with either FIT or colonoscopy
  - Create a standard practice of asking or giving information about colorectal screening completion rates in our clinic
- Documentation of colorectal screening is not consistent or standardized in our clinic

**Table 1. Reasons Low Income/Underserved Populations are a higher risk group (Table 2)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factor</th>
<th>Action to Improve</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Lack of knowledge about CRC, Cancer Screenings in an Underserved Population Bonnie L. Patek, DO and Angela Magdaleno, DO Department of Medicine, Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

**Table 2. Risk Factors for Development of CRC**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barrier Identified</th>
<th>Why?</th>
<th>Action to Improve</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to colonoscopy</td>
<td>Limited number of colonoscopies available in our clinic</td>
<td>Increase number of colonoscopies available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC screening not affordable to clients</td>
<td></td>
<td>Increase number of colonoscopies available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No access to FIT</td>
<td>Financial burden on patients to undergo FIT</td>
<td>Increase number of colonoscopies available.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**References:**

**PLAN**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Plan</th>
<th>ACT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
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</table>

**ACT**

- Increase referrals for colorectal screening by 15% with either FIT ordering or colonoscopy referrals
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**Figures:**

- Quality Improvement Plan for Increasing Patient Awareness, Education and Access to Improve Completion Rates of Colorectal Cancer Screenings in an Underserved Population
- CRC Screening Completion Rates
- CRC Screening Referrals
- Data Analysis
- Data Analysis CRC Screening Methods Offered
- Data Analysis CRC Screening Completion Rates
- Data Analysis CRC Screening Referrals

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