Letter to Patient at Average Risk

Date

Name
Street
City

Dear (Name):

Our office has made a commitment to promote the health of its members, and to provide education regarding preventive health measures that you can take to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Our records indicate that you are either overdue for colorectal cancer screening tests, or that you have never had a colorectal cancer screening test.

I am writing to ask you to call our office today to schedule a colorectal cancer screening appointment. By getting colorectal cancer screening tests regularly, colorectal cancer can be found and treated early when the chances for cure are best. Many of these tests can also help prevent the development of colorectal cancer.

The American Cancer Society recommends that average-risk individuals choose one of the following options for colorectal cancer screening. Screening should begin at age 50.

Tests That Find Polyps and Cancer
Flexible sigmoidoscopy every 5 years*, or
Colonoscopy every 10 years, or
Double contrast barium enema every 5 years*, or
CT colonography (virtual colonoscopy) every 5 years*

Tests That Primarily Find Cancer
Yearly fecal occult blood test (gFOBT)*,, or**
Yearly fecal immunochemical test (FIT)*,, or**
Stool DNA test (sDNA), interval uncertain*

*** If the test is positive, a colonoscopy should be done.**

**** The multiple stool take-home test should be used. One test done by the doctor in the office is not adequate for testing. A colonoscopy should be done if the test is positive.**

The tests that are designed to find both early cancer and polyps are preferred if these tests are available to you and you are willing to have one of these more invasive tests. Talk to your doctor about which test is best for you.

We have also included for your reference an informational pamphlet on colorectal cancer. Should you have any questions about this pamphlet or colorectal cancer screening tests, please contact us. Thank you for taking time to take care of your health.

Sincerely,

Enclosure: *Colorectal Cancer Screening Brochure*