Chapter 1  Program Description

I. Program Purpose

The University of Colorado Comprehensive Cancer Center (UCCCC), in collaboration with the Colorado Cancer Coalition and Colorado’s safety net providers, is implementing the Colorado Colorectal Screening Program, a statewide effort to provide colorectal screening services to medically underserved Coloradans and to increase the awareness and demand for colorectal screening for all Coloradans.

The Colorado Colorectal Screening Program is funded by the Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease and Pulmonary Disease Competitive Grants Program at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, from resources available through Amendment 35, a tobacco tax in Colorado dedicated to improving health. This program is a key aspect of a plan to achieve the Colorado Year 2015 colorectal screening goal of increasing screening rates to 80% amongst the medically underserved in Colorado.

This Program is designed to provide colonoscopy, flexible sigmoidoscopy and barium enema screening services to Coloradans who have an income level that is at or below 250% of the Federal poverty level, and who have no health insurance or a health plan that does not cover any cost for a preventative endoscopic colorectal screening. The Program's operational objective is to integrate screening services into the safety net clinic system across Colorado, which includes the majority of clinics and hospitals who are members of the Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN), Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) and Clinic Net (CN).
What is the Colorado Colorectal Screening Program?

Colorado Colorectal Screening Program is a statewide, competitive grants funded program that partners with health care providers to offer no-cost colorectal screening to the medically underserved. Coordinated through the University of Colorado Cancer Center, the program is based in over 65 community health clinics across Colorado and partners with over 250 screening providers.

What services are provided?

- Endoscopic screening services, referrals, follow-up and treatment
- Patient navigation and clinic outreach
- Provider and clinic education on systematic and evidence-based colorectal cancer screening

How are services reimbursed?

- Providers are reimbursed at Medicare based rates
- The program is the payer of last resort and other coverage must be utilized first

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Website  
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Patient Information Line  
1-866-227-7914

This program is funded by the Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease and Pulmonary Disease Competitive Grants Program at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

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Medical Quality Assurance Committee

The Medical Quality Assurance Committee has an advisory role in:

1. Developing and periodically assessing the screening and surveillance guidelines to be used for determination of eligibility for the Program
2. Providing guidance to staff regarding questions about specific patients eligibility
3. Periodically reviewing the entry criteria of subjects accrued to the Program
4. Providing a resource to staff regarding medical decisions about treatment of colorectal cancers detected by the Program
5. Reviewing any medical complications related to participation in the Program
6. Periodically reviewing clinical outcome data for quality

The committee will meet either in person or via conference call approximately every 3-6 months. The chairman of the committee will be available to review individual patient questions and will
get advice from the other committee members as needed. Individual recommendations will be reviewed at each committee meeting.

The following members participated in the formulation of the Program guidelines and are members of the MQAC:

Dennis Ahnen, MD
Chairman
Staff Physician, Denver VAMC and
Professor of Medicine, University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine

Tim Byers, MD, MPH
Associate Director Cancer Prevention and Control, University of Colorado Cancer Center and Professor and Associate Dean for Public Health Practice, Colorado School of Public Health

Mark Earnest, MD, PhD
Vice President, Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved
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Hans Elzinga, MD
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Associate Professor, University of Colorado Denver

Martin McCarter, MD
Professor of Surgery
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Rosemary Probst
Colorectal Cancer Survivor, Survivor Advocate

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