# The *Fitway* Alabama Colorectal Cancer Prevention Program: An Introduction

Satellite Conference and Live Webcast Friday, February 26, 2010 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. Central Time

Produced by the Alabama Department of Public Health Video Communications and Distance Learning Division

# **Faculty**

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Fitway Alabama Colorectal Cancer
Prevention Program
Alabama Department of Public Health

# What Will This Program Do?

- Increase colorectal cancer screenings in Alabama
- Provide for limited colorectal cancer screenings and diagnostic testing for low income, uninsured/ underinsured Alabamians who are at average risk for developing colorectal cancer

# What Will This Program Do?

 Instruct all Alabamians about colorectal cancer, screening recommendations, and its curability when detected and treated early

### **Colorectal Cancer**

- Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths in Alabama
- In Alabama from 2004-2007, approx.
   40% of colorectal cancer cases were diagnosed at Stage III or Stage IV, when the chance of survival is decreased

### **Colorectal Cancer**

- Colorectal cancer usually begins as pre-cancerous polyps or adenomas
  - These polyps are slow growing and can bleed, making them detectable by specialized screening tools

#### **Colorectal Cancer**

- When the screening tool is positive for blood, a colonoscopy is performed to find the polyp(s) and to remove it before it has the chance to become cancerous
- Colorectal cancer screenings can save lives

# Fitway Eligibility Guidelines

- 1. Men and women, ages 50-64 living in one of the following counties
  - Barbour, Bullock, Choctaw,
     Coffee, Dale, Dallas, Henry,
     Houston, Lowndes, Macon,
     Marengo, Mobile, Montgomery,
     Pike, Sumter, Tuscaloosa

# Fitway Eligibility Guidelines

- 2. Income levels must be at or below 200 percent of Federal poverty guidelines
- 3. Must be under the care of a primary health care provider
- 4. Must be uninsured or underinsured, that is
  - No health insurance

# Fitway Eligibility Guidelines

- Has health insurance that does not cover 100% of FIT/FOBT test or colorectal cancer diagnostic work-up
- Has health insurance that provides a colorectal cancer screening and diagnostic services but requires a deductible or co-insurance amount which the individual cannot pay

# Fitway Eligibility Guidelines

- 5. Persons must be at average risk for developing colorectal cancer
- 6. Persons must be asymptomatic or do not have any GI symptoms

# **Ineligible Patients**

- Those with medical conditions including inflammatory bowel disease, ulcerative colitis, or Crohn's disease
- Patients with genetic predispositions
  - Familial Adenomatous Polyposis (FAP)
  - Hereditary Non-Polyposis Colorectal Cancer (HNPCC)
  - Clinical diagnosis or suspicion of FAP or HNPCC

# **Ineligible Patients**

- Patients with a personal history of pre-cancerous polyps or colorectal cancer
- Patients with family history of colorectal cancer among first degree relatives
  - Mother, father, siblings, children

## **Ineligible Patients**

- Clients who have had an initial positive screening test performed outside of the program and who are seeking diagnostic services
- Clients who are currently having any of the following GI symptoms
  - Rectal bleeding, bloody diarrhea, or blood in the stool within the past 6 months

# **Ineligible Patients**

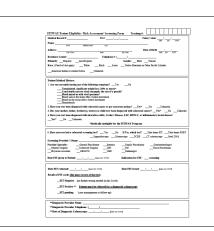
- UNLESS a clinical evaluation has identified the bleeding as known or suspected hemorrhoids in which case the patient is eligible for enrollment
- 2. Prolonged change in bowel habits, such as diarrhea or constipation for more than 2 weeks and which has not been clinically evaluated

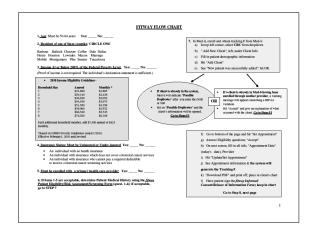
# **Ineligible Patients**

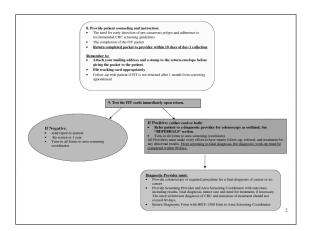
- 3. Persistent abdominal pain
- 4. Symptoms of bowel obstruction such as bowel distention, nausea, vomiting, severe constipation
- 5. Unexplained weight loss of 10% or more of starting body weight
- 6. Consistently small caliber stools
  - Narrow, pencil-sized

# **Ineligible Patients**

- 7. Blood mixed in with stool
  - Not blood seen on paper/water or hemorrhoids







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