

Implementing decision support for colorectal cancer screening in vulnerable populations

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Background: Colorectal cancer (CRC) is an important cause of morbidity and mortality. Screening can reduce CRC incidence and mortality in adults ages 50-75. Several methods of screening are available, each with specific advantages and disadvantages. Surveys suggest that knowledge of the benefits and downsides of screening remain low, and that many adults have not had the opportunity to discuss screening with their provider. These barriers are even greater among those from vulnerable populations. Patient decision aids have been shown to be effective in increasing knowledge and interest in CRC screening in controlled trials. However, implementing decision support in vulnerable populations is challenging, and even when decision support is provided, many patients face additional barriers in carrying out their preferred decision. Better implementation of decision support for CRC screening has the potential to improve decision-making and reduce health disparities.

Methods: In this workshop, we will review different options for implementing decision support for CRC in vulnerable patients, drawing from over 20 years of experience in designing and testing such interventions, including current multi-site trials funded by the American Cancer Society and National Cancer Institute. Topics include:

- 1) Introduction to decision support tools for CRC screening
- 2) Case study: clinic-based decision support for patients with low literacy, with audience discussion of strategies to overcome digital divide
- 3) Case study: mailed decision support for Medicaid beneficiaries
- 4) Options for enhancing the effect of decision support: patient navigation and the use of text message reminders
- 5) Summary: consideration of the advantages and disadvantages of different methods for reaching vulnerable populations- group activity, followed by questions and answers

Results: At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- 1) Recognize the effects of decision support on CRC decision making outcomes
- 2) State the advantages and disadvantages of different methods for implementing decision support in vulnerable populations, in both clinical and non-clinical settings
- 3) Identify other colleagues who are actively implementing or planning to implement efforts to increase CRC decision support

Conclusions: This workshop will provide participants with practical, evidence-based recommendations for decision support for CRC screening in vulnerable populations.