



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Michael R. Bloomberg

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.

Mayor

Commissioner

nyc.gov/health

October 2005

Dear Healthcare Professional:

Colon cancer kills approximately 1,500 New Yorkers a year, and 9 out of 10 people who get colon cancer are 50 years or older. Colon cancer can almost always be prevented, or cured if found early. The best way to test for—and prevent—colon cancer is colonoscopy.

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene recommends that most people 50 years of age and older get a colonoscopy every 10 years. However, any screening method is better than no screening at all.

Colon cancer can be prevented. Remember:

- 1. Refer patients 50 and older or with a family history of colon cancer for a colonoscopy;**
- 2. Colonoscopy is the New York City-recommended screening method; and**
- 3. Any screening method is better than no screening at all.**

Recognizing the important role healthcare professionals provide in referring their patients for colonoscopy, representatives from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene are visiting healthcare providers and staff to promote colonoscopy for colorectal cancer screening. Representatives will provide clinical tools, provider resources and patient education materials to assist you in referring your patients for colonoscopy.

I hope that you find the contents of this Colon Cancer Screening Action Kit useful. Your Health Department Representative is visiting you to discuss ways of applying these methods in your practice.

Thank you for your dedication.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.

Commissioner

New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene