



Southern Health Association

Southern Health Association Resolution #1-2007 Promoting Colorectal Cancer Screening

WHEREAS: Recognizing that colorectal cancer (CRC) is the nation's second leading cause of cancer mortality, and that the nation's health improvement plan, Healthy People 2010, addresses colorectal cancer with two objectives: to reduce mortality from colorectal cancer, and to increase the proportion of adults who receive a colorectal screening examination; and

WHEREAS: colorectal cancer claims more lives than any other malignancy except lung cancer and more than half of all colorectal cancers (53.8%) are diagnosed in later stages of the disease, when successful treatment and survival are less likely; and

WHEREAS: there are disparities in the incidence and mortality from CRC that affect underserved populations including African Americans and other minorities and that barriers to screening persist and vary by county and state; and

WHEREAS: barriers include lack of health insurance, lack of coverage for CRC screening, poor availability of screening and diagnostic services due to inadequate reimbursement for primary care services, limited supply of endoscopists, and fragmentation and lack of continuity in the delivery system; and

WHEREAS: existing medical technology can detect signs of this cancer long before it becomes deadly with one of several effective screening methods for average-risk individuals age 50 and over and screening methods of the highest sensitivity (colonoscopy) for those at increased risk; and

WHEREAS: the Southern Health Association supports the objective to increase the proportion of adults, ages 50 and above, who have had a colonoscopy or sigmoidoscopy procedure within the past 10 years; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED: The Southern Health Association, in collaboration with other public and private organization/agencies serving the aging population and those with cancer; 1) urges insurers and employers to remove barriers to colorectal screening (and related diagnostic work-up) by providing full coverage without co pays or deductibles for all of the undated screening options recommended by American Cancer

Society, the Consortium of Gastroenterology Societies (Consortium), or the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (UPHSTF); 2) urges state and local health departments to include colorectal cancer in all cancer screening programs and to promote screening to their client populations and 3) supports improved primary care and continued education of public health professionals to promote preventative screenings.

Origin: South Carolina 2007

Rebecca Barnes, President
Southern Health Association

Date