Presented by a coalition of organizations committed to the early detection and prevention of colon cancer.

The American Gastroenterological Association (AGA) is dedicated to the mission of advancing the science and practice of gastroenterology. Founded in 1897, the AGA is one of the oldest medical specialty societies in the U.S. Comprised of more than 12,000 physicians and scientists who research, diagnose and treat disorders of the gastrointestinal tract and liver. On a monthly basis, the AGA Institute publishes two highly respected journals, Gastroenterology and Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

The American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS), established in 1899, is an association of surgeons and other professionals dedicated to assuring high quality patient care by advancing the science and practice of colorectal surgery. ASCRS works to improve and maintain standards in medical education and is guided by its commitment to meeting the needs of the ASCRS members.

The American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) is dedicated to the mission of improving patient care and advancing health by promoting excellence in gastrointestinal endoscopy. ASGE is referred to as the foremost resource for endoscopic education. Visit www.asge.org for more information and to find a qualified doctor in your area.

The American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS), established in 1899, is an association of surgeons and other professionals dedicated to assuring high quality patient care by advancing the science for prevention and management of disorders and diseases of the colon, rectum and anus through research and education. The deeply held beliefs of the ASCRS are that diseases of the colon, rectum and anus are significant health problems; that people deserve the best quality care for these diseases; and that their voices must be heard.

Colon Cancer Alliance is a national organization on behalf of people affected by colorectal cancer and is the foremost resource for information about colorectal cancer, prevention, early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of colon cancer, for policy decisions that make the most effective colorectal cancer prevention and treatment available to all; and for increased recognition, treatment and ultimate eradication of these diseases. ASCRN is dedicated to assuring high quality patient care by advancing the science and practice of colorectal surgery.

The Colorectal Cancer Coalition is a national organization whose mission is to eliminate suffering and death due to colorectal cancer by promoting education about the importance of early detection strategies.

The Colon Club was founded in 2003 by Molly McMaster, 28, a colon cancer survivor who was diagnosed on her 23rd birthday, and Hannah Vogler, 30, whose cousin and Molly’s family, Karen, Allen and Patrick, were all diagnosed at the age of 27. Their main goal is to educate as many people as possible, as early as possible, about colorectal cancer and screen¬ning and overwhelming facts, they urge people to make colorectal cancer a top national priority. ACS CAN gives ordinary people the power to make a difference. We are ordinary people who are extraordinary in our mission to reduce suffering and death due to colorectal cancer by promoting education about the importance of early detection strategies.

Supporting organizations include: American Cancer Society, American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (ASCRS), American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE), Endoscopy (ASGE)’s mission is to be the leader in advancing research, education and community outreach to all populations, including children and the underserved. Over the years, we have developed an extensive body of knowledge that is the basis for important prevention and early detection strategies.

A variety of colorectal cancer screening tests, according to the best clinical guidelines. This Report Card provides a snapshot of each state’s effort to pass legislation requiring insurance coverage for colon cancer screening tests, according to the best clinical guidelines.
SAVE LIVES.
MAKE COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING A NATIONAL PRIORITY.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths for men and women combined in the United States, but it doesn’t have to be. With proper screening, colorectal cancer is often preventable and can be successfully treated more than 90% of the time when detected early. In February 2008, the American Cancer Society reported that the colorectal cancer death rate has continued to decline. Down approximately 3% from 2004 to 2005, colorectal cancer saw one of the largest declines in death rates of all leading cancers.

GET TESTED. BEAT THIS DISEASE.

Unfortunately, there is no federal legislation requiring insurance providers to cover the cost of preventative screenings, leaving many people uncertain about whether their insurance covers these tests. In recent years, a number of states have adopted preventative screening legislation for colorectal cancer.

In this 2009 Report Card for Colorectal Cancer, find out if your state has passed preventative screening legislation, and what you can do if your state fails to make the grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF CANCER</th>
<th>NUMBER OF STATES MANDATING COVERAGE OF SCREENING</th>
<th>ESTIMATED DEATHS IN 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorectal</td>
<td>Require Coverage, Insufficient Coverage, No Coverage</td>
<td>49,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>40,930</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Colorectal cancer is highly preventable, yet fewer states* have passed screening legislation when compared to breast cancer.

**This report card grades legislation only. Some states with F grades are working with insurance providers to implement voluntary programs that will ensure widespread coverage for colorectal cancer screening.**

What You Can Do:

We all have the ability to prevent colon cancer from taking lives by simply getting involved and demanding action from our political, corporate, healthcare and insurance leaders:

- Reach out to legislator(s). Log on to www.nccra.org to find contact information for your local decision makers. Send an email or make a quick call if you don’t like your state’s grade.
- Talk to your employer. Ask if their health plan covers colorectal cancer screening, and if not, encourage them to consider it.
- Contact your insurance provider. Understand what screenings your policy covers and what it does not.
- Check in with your friends and family. Share this report (at www.nccra.org) with them and encourage them to talk to their doctor about getting screened.

Grading Criteria - States with above average grades (A-B) generally cover all policyholders age 50 and over, and those under 50 at high risk. Coverage includes:

- Colonoscopy screenings every 10 years
- Flexible sigmoidoscopy or double contrast barium enema screenings every 5 years
- Fecal occult blood tests (FOBT) or fecal immunochemical test (FIT) every year
- FOBT or FIT annually plus a flexible sigmoidoscopy every 5 years

States receiving an A reference accepted screening guidelines,** allowing the legislation to include coverage of future advances in screening methods.

States receiving a B meet current screening guidelines, but no guidelines are specifically referenced. Therefore the legislation may potentially fall short of providing coverage for future advances in screening methods.

States receiving a C have passed legislation that covers preventative cancer screenings, but the legislation is vague and does not specifically mention which types of colorectal cancer screenings are covered.

States receiving a D have passed legislation that requires insurance providers offer coverage, but does not require coverage.

States receiving an F do not currently have any legislation that requires insurance providers to cover preventative colorectal cancer screenings.

* Screening guidelines of the American Cancer Society, American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy.
** Some states with F grades are working with insurance providers to implement voluntary programs that will ensure widespread coverage for colorectal cancer screening.