The SCREEN Act: Testing for Hepatitis C at Colonoscopy

The SCREEN Act (S. 1079/H.R. 2035 introduced in April 2015) establishes an innovative Medicare demonstration project, allowing for a patient office visit prior to a screening colonoscopy to ease patient fear, answer patient questions, and discuss pre-procedure preparation. This pre-screening visit also serves as an opportunity for Medicare beneficiaries to discuss and schedule a Hepatitis C screening with their provider at the same time as the screening colonoscopy.

RECENT FINDINGS DEMONSTRATE

More patients accept Hepatitis C and Colonoscopy Screening Tests...

...when offered at the same time a patient schedules their screening colonoscopy.

The CDC and USPSTF recommends all Medicare beneficiaries, “Baby Boomers” born from 1945 to 1965 be screened for Hepatitis C even if the patient is asymptomatic, just like colorectal cancer screening.

85% to 90% of Baby Boomers with chronic viral Hepatitis C are asymptomatic meaning they have no outward signs of disease and may be unaware that they are infected.

Medicare only covers...

1. One Hepatitis C Screening Test...

...and Yearly repeat screenings for certain High Risk People...

...if ordered by a Primary Care Doctor or Practitioner.

If there is no other reason for an appointment, beneficiaries may not be getting this referral.

These “Baby Boomers” make up approximately 30% of the U.S. population and account for 2 of 3 infected with Hepatitis C.


Source: American College of Gastroenterology © 2015 | gi.org