

NCI Strategies and Projects for Overcoming Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening

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The National Cancer Institute (NCI), the U.S. government's lead agency on cancer, was established by act of Congress in 1937. NCI is a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the primary U.S. government agency for conducting and supporting medical research. The main focus of the NCI is to conduct, support, and foster cancer research. Among the strategies used by NCI to address barriers to colorectal cancer screening are in-house research, especially the collection and analysis of data to monitor and enhance understanding of colorectal cancer screening use in populations and delivery by health care providers; extramural research to improve colorectal cancer screening use, delivery, and quality in primary care; and conferences—such as the upcoming NIH State of the Science Conference on Enhancing Use and Quality of Colorectal Cancer Screening—to evaluate the available scientific information and delineate future research needs. Examples of in-house and extramural research and an overview of the February 2-4, 2010 State of the Science Conference will be provided in the presentation. Results from several NCI-funded extramural research studies were published in September 2008 in a special supplement to the journal *Medical Care*, entitled “Improving delivery of Colorectal Cancer Screening in Primary Care Practices”. Copies of the supplement are available free of charge and can be ordered by sending an e-mail to: AHRQPubs@ahrq.hhs.gov.