**Colorectal Cancer and FIT/FOBT: Facts and Talking Points for Staff to Use with**

 **Patients**

**Facts about colorectal cancer and screening:**

* 2nd leading cause of cancer death in the United States
* More than 50,000 Americans die of colorectal cancer each year
* Colorectal cancer is often preventable with screening
* Early detection and treatment saves lives
* There are more than 1 million colorectal cancer survivors in the United States
* Colorectal cancer screening is recommended between the ages of 45 and 75

**Facts about FOBT and FIT kits**

* They work by detecting small tiny amounts of blood that can come from colon polyps or early stage colorectal cancer
* If done every year, they can help find polyps and cancers before they become life threatening.
* Studies have shown that high quality FOBT and FIT kits, if done correctly and followed up well, can be similarly effective to colonoscopy for most people.
* They are done at home and mailed into the lab.
* If the FOBT or FIT results are abnormal, you need to get a colonoscopy.
* If you choose to get FOBT or FIT, you need to do it every year, just like a flu shot

 **Useful Talking Points for Use with Patients**

* We have something extra to offer you today!
* It looks like you are due for a home colon test
* Colon cancer screening can save lives
* Just like a flu shot, all our doctors and nurses recommend home colon tests
* It’s very easy -- you can do it in the privacy of your home and mail it in
* We’ll make sure the results get to your doctor

**Reminders After Giving the Kit To Patients**

* Put the kit in the bathroom so it will be there when you need to use it
* Try to complete the kit in the next week if possible
* Write the collection dates on each competed kit
* Mail the kit in as soon as possible after you finish collecting the stool
* Call us if you have a problem with the kit
* Talk to your doctor if you have any other questions about FOBT or FIT