Appendix Figure 1. Study flow diagram.

Physicians to whom surveys were mailed (n=2400)

Physicians who did not receive surveys (n=502)

* Survey undeliverable by postal service: 381
* Incorrect address as confirmed in follow up phone calls: 96
* Deceased: 1
* Medical leave: 2
* Retired: 22

Physicians who received surveys (n=1898)

Physicians who returned surveys (n= 1040)

Physicians excluded (n=166)

* Not providing care to older adults: 96
* Not providing care in outpatient setting: 44
* Missing data for primary outcome: 26

Analytical sample (n=874)

Appendix Table 1. Responder and non-responder characteristics.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Responder (n=1035) 1 | Non-responders (n=863) | P-value |
| Age, mean (standard deviation) | 53.3 (13.0) | 49.0 (12.7) | <0.001 |
| Female | 347 (33.5%) | 334 (38.7%) | 0.02 |
| Geographic region 2  Northeast  Midwest  South  West | 213 (20.6%)  222 (21.5)  353 (34.1%)  247 (23.9%) | 194 (22.5%)  160 (18.5%)  315 (36.5%)  194 (22.5%) | 0.27 |
| Specialty |  |  |  |
| Family medicine/general practice | 369 (35.7%) | 277 (32.1%) | <0.001 |
| Internal medicine  Geriatric medicine  Gynecology | 350 (33.8%)  19 (1.8%)  297 (28.7%) | 375 (43.5%)  21 (2.4%)  190 (22.0%) |  |

1 Five respondents’ surveys were missing the tracking IDs; therefore, we were not able to link them to the demographic information from the AMA.

2 Geographic regions were defined based on participant’s mailing address according to the U.S. Census Bureau Region (*United States Census Bureau.* [*2010 Census Regions and Divisions of the United States*](https://www.census.gov/geographies/reference-maps/2010/geo/2010-census-regions-and-divisions-of-the-united-states.html)*. Accessed May 2022*)

Appendix Table 2. Association of patient characteristics in survey vignettes with physicians’ recommendation for surveillance colonoscopies in older adults with prior adenomas, stratified by PCPs vs. gastroenterologists.1

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Patient characteristics in vignettes | Adjusted OR (95% CI) | |
|  | PCPs (n=596) | Gastroenterologists (n=274) |
| Age  75  85 | **7.48 (6.23,8.99)**  Ref | **22.29 (14.79,33.57)**  Ref |
| Health status  Good  Moderate  Poor | **45.95 (33.21,63.57)**  **6.15 (4.89,7.74)**  Ref | **352.75 (165.39,752.36)**  **14.58 (8.50,25.01)**  Ref |
| Adenoma risk  High  Low | **2.55 (2.26,2.87)**  Ref | **2.58 (2.12,3.13**)  Ref |

1 Four participants’ surveys were missing the tracking IDs; therefore, we were not able to link them to the demographic information from the AMA, including specialty information.

Survey instrument:

**Colorectal cancer surveillance in older patients with prior adenomas.**

Patients with prior adenomas are at increased risk for colorectal cancer and are recommended to have follow-up colonoscopies at shorter intervals. There are no clear guidelines on when these follow-up colonoscopies should stop in older adults. We are interested in what you would do.

**Patient 1:**

*Mr. C has no family history or other risk factors for colorectal cancer. His screening colonoscopy 3 years ago with good bowel prep found 5 tubular adenomas, one was 15mm, the other 4 were 5-10mm. All adenomas were completely excised.*

*Mr. C’s adenomas are considered “high-risk”. Gastroenterology guidelines recommend a follow-up colonoscopy in 3 years.*

Would you recommend a follow-up colonoscopy if the following was true of Mr. C?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes | No |
| *75 years old with well-controlled hypertension; living independently* | □ | □ |
| *with moderate congestive heart failure; has difficulty walking* | □ | □ |
| *with severe COPD on oxygen; requires help with self-care* | □ | □ |
|  |  |  |
| *85 years old with well-controlled hypertension; living independently* | □ | □ |
| *with moderate congestive heart failure; has difficulty walking* | □ | □ |
| *with severe COPD on oxygen; requires help with self-care* | □ | □ |

**Patient 2:**

*Mr. D has no family history or other risk factors for colorectal cancer. His screening colonoscopy 7 years ago with good bowel prep found 2 tubular adenomas, both were <10mm and completely excised.*

*Mr. D’s adenomas are considered “low-risk”. Gastroenterology guidelines recommend a follow-up colonoscopy in 7-10 years.*

Would you recommend a follow-up colonoscopy if the following was true of Mr. D?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Yes | No |
| *75 years old with well-controlled hypertension; living independently* | □ | □ |
| *with moderate congestive heart failure; has difficulty walking* | □ | □ |
| *with severe COPD on oxygen; requires help with self-care* | □ | □ |
|  |  |  |
| *85 years old with well-controlled hypertension; living independently* | □ | □ |
| *with moderate congestive heart failure; has difficulty walking* | □ | □ |
| *with severe COPD on oxygen; requires help with self-care* | □ | □ |

Please choose how much you agree or disagree with the following statements.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| In older patients with prior adenomas…. | Strongly disagree | Some-what disagree | Neither agree nor disagree | Some-what agree | Strongly agree |
| I feel uncertain about when the harms of colonoscopies outweigh the benefits. | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| A decision-support tool about surveillance colonoscopies would be helpful. | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |
| Deciding whether to continue surveillance colonoscopy is the gastroenterologist’s role. | □ | □ | □ | □ | □ |

**Your background and practice characteristics**

If you work at more than one practice, please think about the practice you work at the most. Which of the following best describes your current employer? (*Check all that apply)*

* Physician-owned practice
* Health maintenance organization (HMO)
* Medical school or university
* Non-government medical group or health care system
* Government
* Free-standing clinic
* Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Including yourself, about how many physicians work at your practice?

* 1 (solo practitioner)
* 2-10
* 11-49
* 50+

About how many hours per week do you see patients in clinic?

\_\_\_\_\_ hours / week

About what proportion of your patients are 65 years or older \_\_\_\_\_\_%

Are you Hispanic or Latino?

* Yes
* No

What is your race? (*Check all that apply)*

* American Indian or Alaskan Native
* Asian
* Black of African American
* Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
* White
* Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_