

# MMC Cancer Center

## MMC Cancer Center Public Reporting of Outcomes



*Lynn Fletcher*

Lynn Fletcher, BSN, MBA, RN, Director  
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*John Harris*

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### *Commission on Cancer (CoC) Cancer Program Standards 2012: Ensuring Patient-Centered Care*

*Patient Outcomes: Standard 4.2: Screening Programs: As an American College of Surgeons (ACoS) and Commission on Cancer (CoC) accredited facility, "Each year, the cancer committee provides at least 1 cancer screening program that is targeted to decreasing the number of patients with late-stage disease. The screening program is based on community needs and is consistent with evidence-based national guidelines and evidence-based interventions. A process is developed to follow up on all positive findings."*

Cancer continues to be one of the leading causes of death in the US; one of the top five cancers not only nationally, but in New Mexico is colorectal cancer, which afflicts a high percentage of our states population. Research has shown that some cancers caught early can increase your chances of survival and that is done by promotion of early detection and screening. However, providing access to screening services to rural underserved communities, such as those found along the US – Mexico border and Dona Ana County can be difficult. Developing a team of services to collaborate in a screening effort may expand the reach of regional healthcare services.

Through the efforts of MMC Cancer Center Director Lynn Fletcher, MBA, BSN, RN and the CRC team of competent health promotion programs came together in October 2014 and created "Southern New Mexico Cancer Coalition" (SNMCC). The initial effort was to focus on a colorectal cancer since studies show 1 in 3 adults age 50+ are not being screened for colon cancer. SNMCC included Memorial Medical Center and other members including: New Mexico State University (NMSU) program called Cancer Health Disparities "Building Bridges to Enhance Partnerships" NMSU & Fred Hutchinson Cancer Resource Center in Seattle, Washington, Lohman Endoscopy Center, Ben Archer Health Clinics and La Clinica De Familia; two federally qualified health centers (FQHC) who participated in the state CRC Control program, and a local community organization whose mission is to continue to provide financial assistance to cancer patients in the county called CARE: Cancer Aid Resource and Education, Inc.

Over a period of six months, the SNMCC planned and implemented a multi-component screening program that included the distribution of fecal immunochemical tests (FIT) in two regions of Doña Ana County, NM. The FITs were distributed by the Community Health Educator at NMSU and by Promotoras de Salud from the two FQHC's throughout February 2015. Individuals who received the FITs were asked to complete the tests and return them at the March Colorectal Cancer Awareness Day event held at a community center in southern Doña Ana County and at a church in northern Doña Ana County. All individuals who completed the test were entered into the FQHC's CRC Control Program and those with positive FITs were navigated to schedule colonoscopies. Results: A total of 100 FITs were distributed in Doña Ana County (50 in the southern sector and 50 in the northern sector) and had a 75% screening rate. In the southern sector of the county, 34 individuals completed and returned FITs at the event and at follow-up at the clinic. Of these, three were positive for blood in the stool; two of these received a follow-up colonoscopy. In the northern sector, a total of 41 individuals completed and returned FITs. Of these, 4 were positive for blood in

the stool; three of these individuals received a follow-up colonoscopy, and have follow-up appointments scheduled for the colonoscopy results. The positive resulted patients continue to be followed by La Clinica and Ben Archer primary care clinics.

Community-research collaborative efforts are crucial in increasing access to such healthcare and screening services and assist in closing the gaps in cancer health disparities found in the region. The development of the SNMCC was a comprehensive public health response to a major cancer issue affecting communities in southern NM. These coordinated efforts to promote colorectal cancer screening and improve access to cancer control programs had high screening rates (75%), identified at risk individuals at a high frequency, ~ 10% and navigated at risk individuals to treatment and further care. This program therefore has the potential to reduce CRC incidence and mortality among minority and underserved populations

\*Note: Flyers were distributed in both Spanish and English.

Abstract: **Development of a cancer coalition to promote colorectal cancer screening in rural underserved communities in New Mexico**

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# March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

## Did you know?

Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States.

## Are you embarrassed?

- Come enjoy learning about this type of cancer and talk with the experts about your questions or concerns.

## Colorectal Cancer Health Fair • March 7, 2015

### Wear Blue and Learn How to Knock Out Colon Cancer

- Learn about the signs, symptoms and treatment of colorectal cancer.
- Take a walk through the inflatable Colon
- Speak with the Experts

### Anthony & Surrounding Communities

8 AM - 11 AM • Del Cerro Multi-Purpose Center  
180 La Fe Avenue, Mesquite, NM 88048

### Hatch & Surrounding Communities

1 PM - 3 PM • Our Lord of Mercy Parish  
120 Hartman Hatch NM 87937

### Southern New Mexico Cancer Coalition



# Día para Vestir de Azul™

## Marzo es el mes para crear conciencia sobre el cáncer de colon

### Sabías que?

El cáncer de colon es la segunda causa de muerte relacionada con el cáncer en los Estados Unidos?

### Le da pena?

• Acompáñenos y aprenda sobre este tipo de cáncer y hable con los expertos para que le contesten sus dudas.

## Feria de Salud sobre el Cáncer Colorrectal. • Marzo 7, 2015

### Viste de azul y aprende como combatir el cáncer de colon

- Aprenda sobre los signos, síntomas y el tratamiento del cáncer colorrectal.
- Haga un recorrido por el Colon Inflable
- Hable con los expertos

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