



## CT Colonography v Optical colonoscopy

- CTC is equivalent to OC for the detection of cancers [1,2]
- Sensitivity of CTC for adenomatous polyps over 8mm is 93.8% the same as OC [1]
- CTC is the preferable initial test for symptomatic patients who;
  - Are >80 yrs of age
  - Have significant co-morbidities including respiratory risk of sedation [3,4]
- Techniques such as faecal tagging are important to improve the sensitivity
- Radiologists are required to report a minimum number of scans to keep up their technical skills. Report delays are often related to a small number of referrals.
- In 2017 there were an estimated 16,682 new diagnoses of colorectal cancers and around 4,114 CRC related deaths [5]

Current Medicare criteria allow the referral of a symptomatic patient direct to CTC instead of OC if the referrer performs colonoscopies.

### **Current MBS rebate:**

Computed tomography-scan of colon for exclusion or diagnosis of colorectal neoplasia in a symptomatic or high risk patient if:

- (a) one [or more] of the following applies:
  - i. the patient has had an incomplete colonoscopy in the 3 months before the scan;
  - ii. there is a high-grade colonic obstruction;
  - iii. the patient is referred by a specialist or consultant physician who performs colonoscopies [in the practice of his or her speciality]; and
- (b) the service is not a service to which item 56301, 56307, 56401, 56407, 56409, 56412, 56501, 56507, 56801, 56807 or 57001 applies; and
- (c) the service has not been performed on the patient in the 36 months before the scan (R) (K) (Anaes.)

### **References:**

1. Pickhardt et al, Computed tomographic virtual colonoscopy to screen for colorectal neoplasia in asymptomatic adults, NEJM 2003;349(23):2191-2200
2. Pickhardt et al Colorectal Cancer: CT Colonography and Colonoscopy for Detection – Systematic Review and Meta-analysis, Radiology 2011;259(2):393-405
3. NZ society of Gastroenterology. 2015
4. NZ National criteria for direct access out patient colonoscopy. 2015
5. Australian government statistics <http://www.aihw.gov.au/cancer/colorectal/>