

## Sample Letter – ADVANCED COLORECTAL POLYPS LETTER

[Letterhead]

[Date]

[Patient Address]

Dear [Patient]:

I would like to inform you of the results from your recent colonoscopy at [medical center] on [date]. As you know, a small growth called a polyp was removed from your colon [rectum] during the procedure. As expected, the polyp was benign (not cancer). Specifically, **the polyp was a precancerous advanced adenoma [AND/OR advanced serrated polyp]**. If not removed, this type of polyp could have grown larger over many years and might have turned into colorectal cancer. **Because you have a higher chance of developing new polyps and colorectal cancer, you should undergo a repeat colonoscopy in 3 years.**

**I would also recommend colorectal cancer screening for your first-degree relatives (brothers, sisters, children, and parents) beginning at age 40** [or 10 years before the youngest affected relative, whichever is earlier - please be specific based on patient's age at the time polyps were removed]. Make your family members aware of these results so that they can discuss beginning colorectal cancer screening earlier with their physician.

I would suggest you consider changing any health habits that might increase your chance of forming more precancerous polyps and thus colorectal cancer. You may lower your chance of developing future polyps and colorectal cancer by adopting healthy habits such as not smoking, maintaining a healthy body weight, being physically active, limiting red and processed meat (such as beef, cold cuts, bacon, and hot dogs), minimizing alcohol intake (or avoiding alcohol altogether), and eating a diet with a lot of fruits and vegetables.

Please feel free to contact me at [phone number] with any questions.

Stay well.

Sincerely

[Endoscopist name]

cc: [PCP]