Dear Colleagues,

I have arranged for the Medical Director of CRH Medical to come to our practice on {Month Day, Year} to help me incorporate hemorrhoid banding into my practice. The session includes a didactic presentation which reviews the basics of anorectal care and a banding session where we’ll treat appropriate patients. I’ve been asked to schedule a number of patients for that session, and so this letter is to ask for some help identifying patients that might benefit from this treatment.

**What Patients are Appropriate for This Session?**

Please don’t worry about referring the “perfect patient” with hemorrhoids for the session! If you have anyone with ANY anorectal symptoms, they are great candidates. Anyone with a history of bleeding, itching, prolapse, swelling, anal leakage, etc. should be considered. We’ll have a surgeon from CRH present, and he will help in the evaluation and in the formulation of a treatment plan for the patient whether or not there are hemorrhoids present.

**What are the Contraindications to Treatment?**

Contraindications to banding include pregnancy, portal hypertension and proctitis of any kind (ischemic, radiation, Crohn’s, etc.). Eligible patients should have had a colonoscopy in the past 2-3 years, and initially we will not band patients taking anticoagulants (there are no issues with 81 mg ASA, however). The patient should understand that there will likely be a series of 3 treatments (1 for each hemorrhoidal column), with 2-3 weeks between each appointment, and the procedure should be totally painless.

**Patients with Anal Fissure**

One last favor to ask! If you will be seeing these patients either in the office or the endo suite, a quick DRE would be very helpful. If the DRE causes ANY significant discomfort, and if there is not a thrombosed external hemorrhoid or an abscess, then we are going to assume that there is at least a partially healed fissure present. Please start these patients on topical nitroglycerin ointment – 0.125%, with a pea-sized amount placed just inside the anal verge three times per day. I can provide instructions for you to give the patients along with this prescription.

If you have any interest in sitting in on the presentation or banding session, please let us know. If you’d like to set up your own training session, we can ask the folks from CRH to arrange for that as well. Thank you for your help with this! If you have any questions, please call me or Mitch Guttenplan (the surgeon from CRH) at 770-363-0125.

Sincerely,

XYZ