

### Colorectal Cancer Screening (COL-E)

Measure title	Colorectal Cancer Screening	Measure ID	COL-E
Description	The percentage of persons 45–75 years of age who had appropriate screening for colorectal cancer.		
Measurement period	January 1–December 31.		
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Clinical recommendation statement/ rationale	The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force “recommends screening for colorectal cancer in all adults aged 50 to 75 years (A recommendation) and all adults aged 45 to 49 years (B recommendation).” Potential screening methods include an annual guaiac-based fecal occult blood test (gFOBT), annual fecal immunochemical test (FIT), multitargeted stool DNA with FIT test (sDNA FIT) every 3 years, colonoscopy every 10 years, CT colonography every 5 years, flexible sigmoidoscopy every 5 years or flexible sigmoidoscopy every 10 years, with FIT every year.		
Citations	USPSTF. 2021. “Screening for Colorectal Cancer: US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement.” <i>JAMA</i> 325(19): 1965–77. doi:10.1001/jama.2021.6238.		
Characteristics			
Scoring	Proportion.		
Type	Process.		
Product lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Commercial.</li><li>• Medicaid.</li><li>• Medicare.</li></ul>		
Stratifications	Age as of the last day of the measurement period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 46–50 years.</li><li>• 51–75 years.</li></ul> Race. (Refer to <i>General Guideline: Race and Ethnicity Stratification</i> .) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• American Indian or Alaska Native.</li><li>• Asian.</li><li>• Black or African American.</li><li>• Middle Eastern or North African.</li></ul>		

<p><b>Risk adjustment</b></p> <p><b>Improvement notation</b></p> <p><b>Guidance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander.</li> <li>• White.</li> <li>• Some Other Race.</li> <li>• Two or More Races.</li> <li>• Asked But No Answer.</li> <li>• Unknown.</li> </ul> <p>Ethnicity. (Refer to <i>General Guideline: Race and Ethnicity Stratification</i>.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hispanic or Latino.</li> <li>• Not Hispanic or Latino.</li> <li>• Asked But No Answer.</li> <li>• Unknown.</li> </ul> <p>SES (Medicare only). (Refer to <i>General Guideline: Medicare Socioeconomic Status Stratification</i>.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-LIS/DE, Nondisability.</li> <li>• LIS/DE.</li> <li>• Disability.</li> <li>• LIS/DE and Disability.</li> <li>• Other.</li> <li>• Unknown.</li> </ul> <p>None.</p> <p>Increased score indicates improvement.</p> <p><b>Data collection methodology:</b> ECDS. Refer to <i>General Guideline: Data Collection Methods</i> for additional information.</p> <p><b>Date specificity:</b> Dates must be specific enough to determine the event occurred in the period being measured.</p> <p><b>Which services count?</b> When using claims, include all paid, suspended, pending and denied claims.</p>
<p><b>Initial population</b></p>	<p><i>Measure item count:</i> Person.</p> <p><i>Attribution basis:</i> Enrollment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Benefits:</i> Medical.</li> <li>• <i>Continuous enrollment:</i> The measurement period and the year prior to the measurement period.</li> <li>• <i>Allowable gap:</i> No more than one gap of <math>\leq 45</math> days during each year of the continuous enrollment period. No gaps on the last day of the measurement period.</li> </ul> <p><i>Ages:</i> 46–75 years of age as of the last day of the measurement period.</p> <p><i>Event:</i> None.</p>

<b>Denominator exclusions</b>	<p><b>Persons with a date of death.</b> Death in the measurement period, identified using data sources determined by the organization. Method and data sources are subject to review during the HEDIS audit.</p> <p><b>Persons in hospice or using hospice services.</b> Persons who use hospice services (<u>Hospice Encounter Value Set</u>; <u>Hospice Intervention Value Set</u>) or elect to use a hospice benefit any time during the measurement period. Organizations that use the Monthly Membership Detail Data File to identify these persons must use only the run date of the file.</p> <p><b>Persons receiving palliative care.</b> Persons receiving palliative care (<u>Palliative Care Assessment Value Set</u>; <u>Palliative Care Encounter Value Set</u>; <u>Palliative Care Intervention Value Set</u>) or who had an encounter for palliative care (ICD-10-CM code Z51.5*) any time during the measurement period.</p> <p><b>Medicare enrollees, 66 years of age and older by the last day of the measurement period, in an institutional SNP (I-SNP) or living long-term in an institution (LTI).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enrolled in an Institutional SNP (I-SNP) any time during the measurement period.</li> <li>• Living long-term in an institution any time during the measurement period as identified by the LTI flag in the Monthly Membership Detail Data File. Use the run date of the file to determine if a member had an LTI flag during the measurement period.</li> </ul> <p><b>Persons 66 years of age or older by the last day of the measurement period, with both frailty and advanced illness.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Frailty.</b> At least two indications of frailty (<u>Frailty Device Value Set</u>; <u>Frailty Diagnosis Value Set*</u>; <u>Frailty Encounter Value Set</u>; <u>Frailty Symptom Value Set*</u>) with different dates of service during the measurement period.</li> <li>2. <b>Advanced illness.</b> Either of the following during the measurement period or the year prior to the measurement period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Advanced illness (<u>Advanced Illness Value Set*</u>) on at least two different dates of service.</li> <li>– Dispensed dementia medication (<u>Dementia Medications List</u>).</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p><b>History of colorectal cancer and/or total colectomy.</b> Colorectal cancer (<u>Colorectal Cancer and History of Colorectal Cancer Value Set*</u>) or a total colectomy (<u>Total Colectomy Value Set</u>; SNOMED CT code 119771000119101) any time during the person's history through the last day of the measurement period.</p> <p><b>Coding Guidance</b> *Do not include laboratory claims (claims with POS code 81).</p>
<b>Denominator</b>	The initial population minus denominator exclusions.

Numerator	<p><b>Persons with one or more screenings for colorectal cancer.</b> Any of the following meet criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fecal occult blood test (<u>FOBT Lab Test Value Set</u>; <u>FOBT Test Result or Finding Value Set</u>) during the measurement period. For administrative data, assume the required number of samples were returned, regardless of FOBT type.</li><li>Stool DNA (sDNA) with FIT test (<u>sDNA FIT Lab Test Value Set</u>; SNOMED CT code 708699002) during the measurement period or the 2 years prior to the measurement period.</li><li>Flexible sigmoidoscopy (<u>Flexible Sigmoidoscopy Value Set</u>; SNOMED CT code 841000119107) during the measurement period or the 4 years prior to the measurement period.</li><li>CT colonography (<u>CT Colonography Value Set</u>) during the measurement period or the 4 years prior to the measurement period.</li><li>Colonoscopy (<u>Colonoscopy Value Set</u>; SNOMED CT code 851000119109) during the measurement period or the 9 years prior to the measurement period.</li></ul>																																		
Summary of changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Updated the race and ethnicity stratification categories to align with OMB SPD 15 2024.</li><li>Removed the definitions of “participation” and “participation period.”</li><li>Removed the SSoR data elements from the data elements tables.</li><li>Added instructions on allowable adjustments to the race and ethnicity and SES stratifications.</li></ul>																																		
Data element tables	<p>Organizations that submit HEDIS data to NCQA must provide the following data elements.</p> <p><b>Table COL-E-A-1/2/3: Metadata Elements for Colorectal Cancer Screening</b></p> <table><tr><th>Metric</th><th>Age</th><th>Data Element</th><th>Reporting Instructions</th></tr><tr><td rowspan="5">ColorectalCancerScreening</td><td>46-50</td><td>InitialPopulation</td><td>For each Stratification</td></tr><tr><td>51-75</td><td>Exclusions</td><td>For each Stratification</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>Denominator</td><td>For each Stratification</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Numerator</td><td>For each Stratification</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Rate</td><td>(Percent)</td></tr></table> <p><b>Table COL-E-B-3: Data Elements for Colorectal Cancer Screening: SES Stratifications</b></p> <table><tr><th>Metric</th><th>SES Stratifications</th><th>Data Element</th><th>Reporting Instructions</th></tr><tr><td rowspan="3">ColorectalCancerScreening</td><td>NonLisDeNondisability</td><td>InitialPopulation</td><td>For each Stratification</td></tr><tr><td>LisDe</td><td>Exclusions</td><td>For each Stratification</td></tr><tr><td>Disability</td><td>Denominator</td><td>For each Stratification</td></tr></table>	Metric	Age	Data Element	Reporting Instructions	ColorectalCancerScreening	46-50	InitialPopulation	For each Stratification	51-75	Exclusions	For each Stratification	Total	Denominator	For each Stratification		Numerator	For each Stratification		Rate	(Percent)	Metric	SES Stratifications	Data Element	Reporting Instructions	ColorectalCancerScreening	NonLisDeNondisability	InitialPopulation	For each Stratification	LisDe	Exclusions	For each Stratification	Disability	Denominator	For each Stratification
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Metric	SES Stratifications	Data Element	Reporting Instructions
	LisDeAndDisability	Numerator	For each stratification
	Other	Rate	(Percent)
	Unknown		

**Table COL-E-C 1/2/3: Data Elements for Colorectal Cancer Screening: Stratifications by Race**

Metric	Race	Data Element	Reporting Instructions
ColorectalCancerScreening	AmericanIndianOrAlaskaNative	InitialPopulation	For each Stratification
	Asian	Exclusions	For each Stratification
	BlackOrAfricanAmerican	Denominator	For each Stratification
	MiddleEasternOrNorthAfrican	Numerator	For each Stratification
	NativeHawaiianOrPacificIslander	Rate	(Percent)
	White		
	SomeOtherRace		
	TwoOrMoreRaces		
	AskedButNoAnswer		
	Unknown		

**Table COL-E-D-1/2/3: Data Elements for Colorectal Cancer Screening: Stratifications by Ethnicity**

Metric	Ethnicity	Data Element	Reporting Instructions
ColorectalCancerScreening	HispanicOrLatino	InitialPopulation	For each Stratification
	NotHispanicOrLatino	Exclusions	For each Stratification
	AskedButNoAnswer	Denominator	For each Stratification
	Unknown	Numerator	For each Stratification
		Rate	(Percent)

## Rules for Allowable Adjustments

**Copyright and use:** The “Rules for Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS” (the “Rules”) describe how NCQA’s HEDIS measure specifications can be adjusted for other populations, if applicable. The Rules, reviewed and approved by NCQA measure experts, provide for expanded use of HEDIS measures without changing their clinical intent.

**Adjusted HEDIS measures may not be used for HEDIS health plan reporting.**

### ADJUSTMENTS ALLOWED

- *Product lines.* Organizations are not required to use product line criteria; product lines may be combined, and all (or no) product line criteria may be used.
- *Attribution.* Organizations are not required to use enrollment criteria.
- *Benefits.* Organizations are not required to use a benefit.
- *Other.* Organizations may use additional initial population criteria to focus on an area of interest defined by gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic or sociodemographic characteristics, geographic region or another characteristic.
- *Measurement period adjustments.* Organizations may adjust the measurement period.
- *Stratifications:* Race and ethnicity stratification. The race and ethnicity stratification is not required. Organizations may adjust this stratification as needed.
- *Exclusions.* Hospice, deceased persons, palliative care, I-SNP, LTI, frailty or advanced illness exclusions are not required.
- *Telehealth.* Services/events that allow the use of synchronous telehealth visits, telephone visits and asynchronous telehealth (e-visits, virtual check-ins) may be stratified to identify services performed via telehealth. This adjustment is not allowed for events, numerators and exclusions that do not allow the use of telehealth.

### ADJUSTMENTS ALLOWED WITH LIMITS

- *Ages.* The age determination dates may be changed (e.g., select, “age as of June 30”). The initial population age may be expanded to 45–85 years of age.
- *Socioeconomic stratification.* The socioeconomic stratification is not required, but if it is applied, no adjustments may be made.

### ADJUSTMENTS NOT ALLOWED

- *Exclusions.* The colorectal cancer and colectomy exclusions must be applied. Value sets may not be changed.
- *Numerator.* The value sets, direct reference codes and logic may not be changed.