

Colorectal Cancer Screening (COL-E)

SUMMARY OF CHANGES TO HEDIS MY 2024

- Refer to the Technical Release Notes file on the [HEDIS webpage](#).
- Expanded the ages criteria in the *Rules for Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS*.
- Revised the headers in the *Clinical Components* section of the *Rules for Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS*.
- Revised the exclusion criteria in the *Rules for Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS*.
- Added a *Denominator* section to the *Rules for Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS*.

Description	The percentage of members 45–75 years of age who had appropriate screening for colorectal cancer.
Measurement period	January 1–December 31.
Clinical recommendation statement	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	U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. 2021. “Screening for Colorectal Cancer: U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement.” <i>JAMA</i> 325(19):1965–1977. doi:10.1001/jama.2021.6238
Characteristics	
Scoring	Proportion.
Type	Process.
Stratification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorectal Cancer Screening. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Product line: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commercial. ▪ Medicaid. ▪ Medicare. – Age (for each product line): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 46–50 years. ▪ 51–75 years.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – SES (for Medicare only): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SES—Non-LIS/DE, Nondisability. ▪ SES—LIS/DE. ▪ SES—Disability. ▪ SES—LIS/DE and Disability. ▪ SES—Other. ▪ SES—Unknown. – Race (for each product line): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Race—American Indian or Alaska Native. ▪ Race—Asian. ▪ Race—Black or African American. ▪ Race—Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. ▪ Race—White. ▪ Race—Some Other Race. ▪ Race—Two or More Races. ▪ Race—Asked But No Answer. ▪ Race—Unknown. – Ethnicity (for each product line): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ethnicity—Hispanic or Latino. ▪ Ethnicity—Not Hispanic or Latino. ▪ Ethnicity—Asked But No Answer. ▪ Ethnicity—Unknown.
Risk adjustment	None.
Improvement notation	A higher rate indicates better performance.
Guidance	<p>Allocation: The member was enrolled with a medical benefit during the measurement period and the year prior to the measurement period.</p> <p>No more than one gap in enrollment of up to 45 days during each calendar year (i.e., the measurement period and the year prior to the measurement period).</p> <p>The member must be enrolled on the last day of the measurement period.</p> <p>Reporting: For Medicare plans, the SES stratifications are mutually exclusive, and the sum of all six stratifications is the total population.</p> <p>For all plans, the race and ethnicity stratifications are mutually exclusive, and the sum of all categories in each stratification is the total population.</p> <p>The race and ethnicity stratifications are reported by data source—direct, indirect or unknown. Race and ethnicity values of “Asked But No Answer” are only reported for Source=“Direct.” Race and ethnicity values of “Unknown” are only reported for Source=“Unknown” and Source=“Unknown” is only reported for race and ethnicity values of “Unknown.”</p>

	<p>Programming Guidance: Product line stratifications are not included in the measure calculation logic, and must be programmed manually.</p> <p>The race and ethnicity stratifications data source logic is not included in the measure calculation logic, and must be programmed manually.</p> <p>Refer to the HEDIS Implementation Guide in the digital measure package for additional programming guidance.</p>
Definitions	
Participation	The identifiers and descriptors for each organization's coverage used to define members' eligibility for measure reporting. Allocation for reporting is based on eligibility during the participation period.
Participation period	The measurement period and the year prior to the measurement period.
Initial population	Members 46–75 years as of the end of the measurement period who also meet the criteria for participation.
Exclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members 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 members must use only the run date of the file to determine if the member elected to use a hospice benefit during the measurement period. Members who die any time during the measurement period. Members who had colorectal cancer (<u>Colorectal Cancer Value Set</u>) any time during the member's history through December 31 of the measurement year. Do not include laboratory claims (claims with POS 81). Members who had a total colectomy (<u>Total Colectomy Value Set</u>; SNOMEDCT code 119771000119101) any time during the member's history through December 31 of the measurement period. Medicare members 66 years of age and older by the end of the measurement period who meet either of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrolled in an Institutional SNP (I-SNP) any time during the measurement period.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 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. • Members 66 years of age and older by the end of the measurement period, with frailty and advanced illness. Members must meet BOTH frailty and advanced illness criteria to be excluded: – Frailty. 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. Do not include laboratory claims (claims with POS 81). – Advanced Illness. Either of the following during the measurement period or the year prior to the measurement period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advanced illness (<u>Advanced Illness Value Set</u>) on at least two different dates of service. Do not include laboratory claims (claims with POS 81). ▪ Dispensed dementia medication (<u>Dementia Medications List</u>). • Members receiving palliative care (<u>Palliative Care Assessment Value Set</u>; <u>Palliative Care Encounter Value Set</u>; <u>Palliative Care Intervention Value Set</u>) any time during the measurement period. • Members who had an encounter for palliative care (ICD-10-CM code Z51.5) any time during the measurement year. Do not include laboratory claims (claims with POS 81).
Denominator	The initial population, minus exclusions.
Numerator	<p>Members with one or more screenings for colorectal cancer. Any of the following meet criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • Stool DNA (sDNA) with FIT test (<u>sDNA FIT Lab Test Value Set</u>; SNOMEDCT code 708699002) during the measurement period or the 2 years prior to the measurement period. • Flexible sigmoidoscopy (<u>Flexible Sigmoidoscopy Value Set</u>; SNOMEDCT code 841000119107) during the measurement period or the 4 years prior to the measurement period. • CT colonography (<u>CT Colonography Value Set</u>) during the measurement period or the 4 years prior to the measurement period. • Colonoscopy (<u>Colonoscopy Value Set</u>; SNOMEDCT code 851000119109) during the measurement period or the 9 years prior to the measurement period.

Data criteria (element level)**Value Sets:**

- **COLE_HEDIS_MY2024-3.0.0**

- Colonoscopy (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1064>)
- Colorectal Cancer (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1065>)
- CT Colonography (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1421>)
- Flexible Sigmoidoscopy (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1102>)
- FOBT Lab Test (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1959>)
- FOBT Test Result or Finding
(<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1960>)
- sDNA FIT Lab Test (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1749>)
- Total Colectomy (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1250>)

- **NCQA_AdvancedIllnessandFrailty-3.0.0**

- Acute Inpatient (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1810>)
- Advanced Illness (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1465>)
- Dementia Medications (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1729>)
- ED (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1086>)
- Frailty Device (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1530>)
- Frailty Diagnosis (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1531>)
- Frailty Encounter (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1532>)
- Frailty Symptom (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1533>)
- Nonacute Inpatient (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1189>)
- Online Assessments (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1446>)
- Outpatient (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1202>)
- Telephone Visits (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1246>)

- **NCQA_Claims-3.0.0**

- Inpatient Stay (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1395>)
- Nonacute Inpatient Stay (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1398>)

- **NCQA_Hospice-3.0.0**

- Hospice Encounter (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1761>)
- Hospice Intervention (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1762>)

- **NCQA_PalliativeCare-3.0.0**

- Palliative Care Assessment
(<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.2225>)
- Palliative Care Encounter
(<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.1450>)
- Palliative Care Intervention
(<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.2224>)

- **NCQA_Stratification-2.0.0**

- American Indian or Alaska Native Detailed Race
(<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.2365>)

- Asian Detailed Race (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.2366>)
- Black or African American Detailed Race (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.2367>)
- Hispanic or Latino Detailed Ethnicity (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.2368>)
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander Detailed Race (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.2369>)
- White Detailed Race (<https://www.ncqa.org/fhir/valueset/2.16.840.1.113883.3.464.1004.2370>)

Direct reference codes and codesystems:

- **COLE_HEDIS_MY2024-3.0.0**

- codesystem "SNOMEDCT": 'http://snomed.info/sct/731000124108'
- code "History of colonoscopy (situation)": '851000119109' from "SNOMEDCT" display 'History of colonoscopy (situation)'
- code "History of flexible sigmoidoscopy (situation)": '841000119107' from "SNOMEDCT" display 'History of flexible sigmoidoscopy (situation)'
- code "History of total colectomy (situation)": '119771000119101' from "SNOMEDCT" display 'History of total colectomy (situation)'
- code "Stool DNA-based colorectal cancer screening positive (finding)": '708699002' from "SNOMEDCT" display 'Stool DNA-based colorectal cancer screening positive (finding)'

- **NCQA_PalliativeCare-3.0.0**

- codesystem "ICD-10-CM": 'http://hl7.org/fhir/sid/icd-10-cm'
- code "Encounter for palliative care": 'Z51.5' from "ICD-10-CM" display 'Encounter for palliative care'

- **NCQA_Terminology-3.0.0**

- codesystem "ActCode": 'http://terminology.hl7.org/CodeSystem/v3-ActCode'
- codesystem "ClaimTypeCodes": 'http://terminology.hl7.org/CodeSystem/claim-type'
- codesystem "ConditionClinicalStatusCodes": 'http://terminology.hl7.org/CodeSystem/condition-clinical'
- codesystem "NullFlavor": 'http://terminology.hl7.org/CodeSystem/v3-NullFlavor'
- codesystem "RaceAndEthnicityCDC": 'https://www.hl7.org/fhir/us/core/CodeSystem-cdcrec'
- code "active": 'active' from "ConditionClinicalStatusCodes"
- code "American Indian or Alaska Native": '1002-5' from "RaceAndEthnicityCDC" display 'American Indian or Alaska Native'
- code "Asian": '2028-9' from "RaceAndEthnicityCDC" display 'Asian'
- code "Asked but no answer": 'ASKU' from "NullFlavor" display 'Asked but no answer'
- code "Black or African American": '2054-5' from "RaceAndEthnicityCDC" display 'Black or African American'
- code "Hispanic or Latino": '2135-2' from "RaceAndEthnicityCDC" display 'Hispanic or Latino'
- code "Institutional": 'institutional' from "ClaimTypeCodes"
- code "managed care policy": 'MCPOL' from "ActCode"
- code "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander": '2076-8' from "RaceAndEthnicityCDC" display 'Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander'
- code "Non Hispanic or Latino": '2186-5' from "RaceAndEthnicityCDC" display 'Non Hispanic or Latino'

- code "Other": 'OTH' from "NullFlavor" display 'Other'
- code "Pharmacy": 'pharmacy' from "ClaimTypeCodes"
- code "Professional": 'professional' from "ClaimTypeCodes"
- code "retiree health program": 'RETIRE' from "ActCode"
- code "subsidized health program": 'SUBSIDIZ' from "ActCode"
- code "Unknown": 'UNK' from "NullFlavor" display 'Unknown'
- code "White": '2106-3' from "RaceAndEthnicityCDC" display 'White'

Data Elements for Reporting

Organizations that submit data to NCQA must provide the following data elements in a specified file.

Table COL-E-A-1/2/3: Metadata Elements for Colorectal Cancer Screening

Metric	Age	Data Element	Reporting Instructions
ColorectalCancerScreening	46-50	InitialPopulation	For each Stratification
	51-75	ExclusionsByEHR	For each Stratification
	Total	ExclusionsByCaseManagement	For each Stratification
		ExclusionsByHIERegistry	For each Stratification
		ExclusionsByAdmin	For each Stratification
		Exclusions	(Sum over SSoRs)
		Denominator	For each Stratification
		NumeratorByEHR	For each Stratification
		NumeratorByCaseManagement	For each Stratification
		NumeratorByHIERegistry	For each Stratification
		NumeratorByAdmin	For each Stratification
		Numerator	(Sum over SSoRs)
		Rate	(Percent)

Table COL-E-B-3: Data Elements for Colorectal Cancer Screening: SES Stratifications

Metric	SES Stratification	Data Element	Reporting Instructions
ColorectalCancerScreening	NonLisDeNondisability	InitialPopulation	For each Stratification
	LisDe	ExclusionsByEHR	For each Stratification
	Disability	ExclusionsByCaseManagement	For each Stratification
	LisDeAndDisability	ExclusionsByHIERegistry	For each Stratification
	Other	ExclusionsByAdmin	For each Stratification
	Unknown	Exclusions	(Sum over SSoRs)
		Denominator	For each Stratification
		NumeratorByEHR	For each Stratification
		NumeratorByCaseManagement	For each Stratification
		NumeratorByHIERegistry	For each Stratification
		NumeratorByAdmin	For each Stratification

Metric	SES Stratification	Data Element	Reporting Instructions
		Numerator	(Sum over SSoRs)
		Rate	(Percent)

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

Metric
ColorectalCancerScreening

Race	Source	Data Element	Reporting Instructions
AmericanIndianOrAlaskaNative	Direct	InitialPopulation	For each Stratification
Asian	Indirect	Exclusions	For each Stratification
BlackOrAfricanAmerican	Unknown**	Denominator	For each Stratification
NativeHawaiianOrOtherPacificIslander	Total	Numerator	For each Stratification
White		Rate	(Percent)
SomeOtherRace			
TwoOrMoreRaces			
AskedButNoAnswer*			
Unknown**			

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

Metric
ColorectalCancerScreening

Ethnicity	Source	Data Element	Reporting Instructions
HispanicOrLatino	Direct	InitialPopulation	For each Stratification
NotHispanicOrLatino	Indirect	Exclusions	For each Stratification
AskedButNoAnswer*	Unknown**	Denominator	For each Stratification
Unknown**	Total	Numerator	For each Stratification
		Rate	(Percent)

*AskedButNoAnswer is only reported for Source= "Direct."

**Race/Ethnicity = "Unknown" is only reported for Source = "Unknown" and Source = "Unknown" is only reported for Race/Ethnicity = "Unknown."

Rules for Allowable Adjustments of HEDIS

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.

Rules for Allowable Adjustments of Colorectal Cancer Screening—ECDS

NONCLINICAL COMPONENTS		
Eligible Population	Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)	Notes
Product lines	Yes	Organizations are not required to use product line criteria; product lines may be combined and all (or no) product line criteria may be used.
Ages	Yes, with limits	The age determination dates may be changed (e.g., select, “age as of June 30”). The denominator age may be expanded to 45-85 years of age.
Allocation	Yes	Organizations are not required to use enrollment criteria; adjustments are allowed.
Benefit	Yes	Organizations are not required to use a benefit; adjustments are allowed.
Other	Yes	Organizations may use additional eligible population criteria to focus on a population of interest such as gender, race and ethnicity, socioeconomic, sociodemographic characteristic or geographic region.
CLINICAL COMPONENTS		
Initial Population	Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)	Notes
Event/diagnosis	NA	There is no event/diagnosis for this measure.
Exclusions	Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)	Notes
Exclusions	No	Only the specified exclusions may be applied. Value sets may not be changed.
Exclusions: Hospice, deceased member, palliative care, I-SNP, LTI, frailty and advanced illness	Yes	These exclusions are not required. Refer to <i>Exclusions</i> in the <i>Guidelines for the Rules for Allowable Adjustments</i> .
Denominator	Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)	Notes
Denominator	No	The logic may not be changed.
Numerator Criteria	Adjustments Allowed (Yes/No)	Notes
Colorectal Cancer Screening	No	The value sets, direct reference codes and logic may not be changed.