

# Colorectal cancer screening: The latest provider guidance for MY2022

[pages.azblue.com/Updated-criteria-for-colorectal-cancer-screenings---OCT-2022.html](https://pages.azblue.com/Updated-criteria-for-colorectal-cancer-screenings---OCT-2022.html)

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HEDIS® measures<sup>1</sup> address a broad range of important health issues, including measures that promote disease prevention and screening for cancer.

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The Colorectal Cancer Screening (COL) measure<sup>2</sup> is a vital step in the early detection and prevention of colon cancer. You can help your patients understand the importance of screening and the many screening options available to them.

[Red Ribbon Week October 23-31](#) and

[Drug Take Back Day October 29:](#)  
**Take action to reduce drug misuse**

## Measure by measure: Revised age range for colorectal cancer screenings

The goal is for members to receive appropriate and timely screening for colorectal cancer. To align with updated U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommendations for colorectal cancer screening,<sup>3</sup> the COL measure was revised for measurement year (MY) 2022.<sup>4</sup> The measure's previous age range of 50-75 was changed to include adults ages 45-75. The USPSTF found that about 10.5% of new colorectal cancer cases are detected in people under the age of 50 and that the occurrence of colorectal cancer increased by almost 15% in people ages 40-49 from 2000-2002 to 2014-2016.

One or more of the following screenings meet the COL criteria:

- Fecal occult blood test (FOBT) during the MY
- Flexible sigmoidoscopy during the MY or the four years prior

- Colonoscopy during the MY or the nine years prior
- CT colonography during the MY or the four years prior
- Stool DNA (sDNA) with FIT test during the MY or the two years prior

A digital rectal exam (DRE) does not count, nor does an FOBT performed on a sample collected via DRE.

## **What's changed for MY2022**

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In addition to assessing adults ages 45-75, the updated COL measure:

- Added age stratifications
- Changed references of "FIT-DNA test" to "stool DNA (sDNA) with FIT test"
- Added rate stratification by race and ethnicity
- Noted that patients receiving hospice/palliative care or using hospice services any time during the measurement year are a mandatory exclusion

## **Important note for primary care providers: Medical record review**

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Colorectal cancer screenings have up to a nine-year look-back period. Historical screenings are difficult to capture using administrative claims data. To capture screenings during medical record review, the documentation in the medical record must include a note indicating the date the colorectal screening was performed. A result is not required if the documentation is clearly part of the member's medical history.

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More than 90% of America's health plans, including Blue Cross® Blue Shield® of Arizona, use HEDIS to measure performance on important dimensions of care and service. HEDIS helps providers and health plans see where to focus their improvement efforts for higher-quality outcomes.

HEDIS is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

<sup>1</sup> Source: [National Committee for Quality Assurance \(NCQA\) \(HEDIS and Performance Measurement\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> Source: [NCQA, "Colorectal Cancer Screening \(COL, COL-E\)"](#)

<sup>3</sup> Source: [JAMA, "Screening for Colorectal Cancer: US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement," \(May 18, 2021\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> Source: [NCQA, "HEDIS Measurement Year \(MY\) 2022 Volume 2: Technical Update," \(March 31, 2022\)](#)

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