



One of a series of tip sheets that look at key Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set measures

Colorectal cancer screening

This measure examines the percentage of adults, ages 50–75, who had appropriate screening for colorectal cancer.

Improving HEDIS® scores*

- Begin colorectal screening at age 50. For high-risk patients, begin screenings sooner.
- Meet any of the following criteria:**

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Fecal occult blood test | every year (need 3 sample for compliance) |
| Flexible sigmoidoscopy | every 5 years |
| Colonoscopy | every 10 years |
| CT colonography | every 5 years |
| FIT DNA test | every 3 years |

- Encourage stool tests in patients resistant to receiving a colonoscopy.
- Make sure to document test results in chart.
- Develop a callback system to ensure patients have completed testing. You only get credit for completed tests.

Exclusions: Patients with a history of colorectal cancer or those who have had a total colectomy are excluded from this measure. Members in hospice are also excluded.

Did you know?

- Colorectal cancer is the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the U.S.
- The overall lifetime risk of developing colorectal cancer is about 1 in 21, or 4.7 percent.
- Regular screenings have been proven to save lives by detecting polyps at an early, more treatable stage.
- Under health care reform, the preventive screenings described at left are fully covered without cost sharing when provided by an in-network health care provider.

Tip:

To get credit for meeting this measure, you must submit a claim for one of the appropriate screenings or provide documentation in the medical record of one of the following:

- 1) Date and name of the test performed in the medical history section of the chart
- 2) Report indicating the type of screening performed, date and result.

*HEDIS, which stands for Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set, is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance.

**Performing FOBT in an office setting or on a sample collected during digital rectal exam does NOT meet criteria.