



Quality Improvement Initiative 2023: Colorectal Cancer Screening

Problem Statement

The purpose of this quality initiative is to increase colorectal cancer screening in adults. Colorectal cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer-related deaths for both men and women in the US, and according to a recently published cancer statistics analysis, colorectal cancer is projected to be the second highest cause of all cancer deaths in Missouri in 2021. ¹ However, early detection of precancerous polyps through colorectal cancer screenings can drastically improve survival rates (to approximately 90% after 5 years) through the removal of polyps before cancer fully develops or is in its early stages. ²

Risk of colorectal cancer development increases with age, and because polyps may not cause any symptoms, preventive screenings are the most effective way to reduce the risk of cancer and increase success of treatment if found. ² The USPSTF current recommendation that all adults aged 50 to 75 years be screened was extended this year to include the 45 to 49 years age group, effective January 1, 2022. ³

Performance Goals

Our goal is to reach the NCQA benchmark for Commercial PPO plans, which was 61.8% of members at the time of the establishment of this initiative. This goal may need to be evaluated following changes in national benchmarks after this measure was updated during HEDIS Measure Year 2022 to include the new age range. Data will be measured at least annually to monitor performance.

Data Collection Plan

To measure colorectal cancer screening, CHP will look at the percentage of members 46-75 years of age who were screened. Adults aged 46-75 are the denominator and the numerator is the total of that population who were screened. The data will be divided into QHP and Commercial plans. Prospective data collected for the Commercial line is annualized. QHP data will be collected after year end. It is important to note that in 2021 screening data was collected only for the 50-75 age range due to prior measure specifications.

Data Collection

CHP will continue to add to the chart as more data is collected for this initiative over time.

QHP

Year	Measure	Numerator (Total # screened)	Denominator (Total # members)	Rate	Goal
2021	Colorectal cancer screening	29	86	33.7%	61.8%
2022	Colorectal cancer screening	27	76	35.5%	61.8%
2023	Colorectal cancer screening				

Commercial Plans*

Year	Measure	Numerator (Total # screened)	Denominator (Total # members)	Rate	Goal
2021	Colorectal cancer screening	4,039	8,311	48.6%	61.8%
2022	Colorectal cancer screening	3,111	6,752	46.1%	61.8%
2023	Colorectal cancer screening				

*Annualized

Data Analysis and Statistical Testing

CHP uses chi-squared testing to demonstrate the statistical significance of our collected data. Chi-squared is a statistics test that measures how expected data compares to actual data. Results will be displayed in the chart below and indicate year to year changes in statistical significance. Statistical significance will be at $p < 0.05$. CHP will also address findings and/or barriers here that effect statistically significant results, as applicable.

QHP

Year	Numerator	Denominator	Rate	Chi-square test	Statistical Significance
2021	29	86	33.7%	N/A	N/A
2022	27	76	35.5%	2021 to 2022: Chi-square 0.0282477 p-value 0.8665	Not statistically significant
2023					

Commercial Plans*

Year	Numerator	Denominator	Rate	Chi-square test	Statistical Significance
2021	4,039	8,311	48.6%	N/A	N/A
2022	3,111	6,752	46.1%	2021 to 2022: Chi-square 3.39408 p-value 0.06543	Not statistically significant
2023					

*Annualized

Barrier:

- Need for increased motivation to members to be screened for colorectal cancer when they become eligible, especially at the new lower age range

Proposed action:

- Create blog post to educate members about the importance of screening for prevention and detection of colorectal cancer

Comparison to Goal

CHP is working to meet the colorectal care goal in 2023 and to increase members screened for colorectal cancer.

QHP

Year	Numerator	Denominator	Rate	Goal
2021	29	86	33.7%	61.8%
2022	27	76	35.5%	61.8%
2023				

Commercial Plans*

Year	Numerator	Denominator	Rate	Goal
2021	4,039	8,311	48.6%	61.8%
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2023				

*Annualized

Interventions

CHP and CoxHealth are implementing the following interventions to improve its colorectal screening measure:

Date	Intervention	Barrier Addressed
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education to members about colonoscopies - Highlighted HEDIS measure update in provider communications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blog post created to educate members about what to expect with their first colonoscopy • Encouraged timely information sharing and discussion of measure change
2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education to members about importance of preventive colorectal cancer screening - CHN improved workflow to reduce scheduling barriers to colonoscopy - Fall 2023 Pop Health FIT card 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blog post created to educate members about why they should be screened if they are eligible • Decreased wait times to screening • Increased screenings among noncompliant members

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Re-Measurement

CHP will re-measure colorectal cancer screening at least annually to evaluate progress towards meeting its goal. Goals can be re-evaluated during this time and adjusted accordingly.

Additional Corrective Actions

Additional corrective actions are identified on the intervention grid above. CHP will initiate additional corrective actions each year, where necessary.

Findings and Outcomes

The findings and outcomes of this quality initiative will be shared with CHP employees, members, providers, the Quality Improvement Committee, and the Board of Directors. We may add and/or modify goals and interventions, when necessary, based on findings and outcomes. If the findings at any time during the initiative lead to needed training and education for staff, the education will be created and distributed within the following quarter.

References:

1. CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians. 2021. "Cancer statistics, 2021". [Cancer Statistics, 2021 - Siegel - 2021 - CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians - Wiley Online Library](#) (September 17, 2021)
2. CDC. 2021. "Basic Information About Colorectal Cancer". [Basic Information About Colorectal Cancer | CDC](#) (September 17, 2021)
3. USPSTF. 2021. "Colorectal Cancer: Screening". [Recommendation: Colorectal Cancer: Screening | United States Preventive Services Taskforce \(uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org\)](#) (September 17, 2021)