



How to Improve HEDIS Scores:

Colorectal Cancer Screening (COL)

The percentage of patients 50-75 years of age who had one of the following screenings for colorectal cancer screening:

- Colonoscopy in the last 10 years
- CT colonography in the last 5 years
- Flexible sigmoidoscopy in the last 5 years
- FIT-DNA (Cologuard) test in the last 3 years
- gFOBT or iFOBT (or FIT) in the last year*
*(FOBT tests performed in an office or performed on a sample collected via a digital rectal exam (DRE) do NOT meet criteria.)

Provider tips to improve Compliance with the COL HEDIS measure:

- Discuss need for colorectal screen with patient annually. If resistant to undergoing a colonoscopy, offer home screening kit – gFOBT (1) or iFOBT (2) or FIT-DNA (3), see below.
- A history of past refusals does not preclude addressing the need for colorectal screening each year. Determine barriers for patient, if any, and educate as needed.
- Use standing orders to empower office staff to prepare referral for colonoscopy or distribute FOBT or FIT-DNA kits to patients who need colorectal cancer screening.
 - It is essential that follow up is performed after distribution of a home screening kit.
 - Assign a point person to educate and distribute the kit.
 - Create target dates for returning the sample to the designated personnel.
- Preventative Health Maintenance must be addressed at each visit if not compliant.
- Clearly document history of colon cancer and/or total colectomy on the Health Maintenance flow sheet as these patients are excluded from the measure.

Points to consider with use of home screening Fecal Occult Blood Tests or FIT-DNA:

- (1) gFOBT - guaiac Fecal Occult Blood Test uses a chemical to detect heme, a component of the blood protein hemoglobin. Because the guaiac FOBT can also detect heme in some foods (for example, red meat), patients have to avoid certain foods before having this test. Multiple samples may be required. Performed annually.
- (2) iFOBT – or FIT - Fecal Immunochemical Test uses antibodies to detect human hemoglobin protein. Dietary restrictions are typically not required for FIT. Performed annually.
- (3) FIT-DNA – requires collection of a full bowel movement. Recommended every three years.