



SURVEY OF HEALTH PLAN POLICIES AND PROGRAMS FOR COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING

The Survey of Health Plan Policies and Programs for Colorectal Cancer Screening is a nationwide study that will provide important information about how screening for colorectal cancer is being conducted in U.S. health plans. The survey is being sent to a random sample of health plan medical directors across the nation. In some cases, the medical director will be able to respond to all sections of the survey. In others, there may be another individual within the plan who is best able to respond to certain questions or sections. Please feel free to involve other knowledgeable individuals from your plan in responding to the survey, as needed.

Even if your health plan does not cover or promote colorectal cancer screening, we are interested in your response and seek your answers based on your plan's current practice. Most plans will not need to answer every question on the survey.

After completing the survey, please return it in the enclosed postage-paid envelope to: Lorayn Olson, Ph.D., Abt Associates, 640 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 400, Chicago, IL, 60610, or fax it to Dr. Olson at 1-800-786-4816. If you have any questions about the study, or would like to schedule an appointment to complete it over the telephone, please call 1-800-305-8013.

Thank you for your participation.

Federal Law requires that each survey participant be informed of the following:

- (1) Legislative authorization for this study is found under 42 USC 285a.
- (2) Your participation is completely voluntary. You are subject to no penalty if you choose not to provide all or any part of the requested information.
- (3) All information will be held in confidence except as required by law and will be presented only in statistical or summary form.
- (4) Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: NIH, Project Clearance Branch, 6705 Rockledge Drive, MSC 7974, Bethesda, MD 20892-7974, ATTN: PRA (0925-0548). Do not return the completed form to this address.

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To ensure consistent interpretation of terms, *cancer screening* is defined in this survey as the routine, periodic use of a testing procedure intended to detect cancer or pre-cancerous lesions at an earlier stage than is possible through clinical detection or incidental discovery. Cancer screening is used in patients who display no signs or symptoms of possible cancer (i.e., pain, bleeding, palpable masses, etc.).

FOR MOST OF THE QUESTIONS ON THIS SURVEY, PLEASE ANSWER BY PLACING AN "X" IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX.

PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING THE HEALTH PLAN LISTED BELOW.

- If your health plan has ONLY ONE product line, please report on that product line.
- If your health plan has MULTIPLE product lines, please report on the product line with the largest enrollment that:
 - a) is a commercial (e.g., non-Medicare and non-Medicaid) entity, and
 - b) reports HEDIS® data.
- If your health plan does not report HEDIS® data to NCQA, please report on the product line with the LARGEST ENROLLMENT that is a COMMERCIAL (e.g. non-Medicare and non-Medicaid) entity.
- If all of your product lines are NON-COMMERCIAL, please report on the product line with the largest enrollment.

We will refer to the product line for which you are reporting in this survey by the term "plan."

PART I. PLAN CHARACTERISTICS AND BENEFITS

The questions in this section will help us to better understand how your plan is organized, and whether certain colorectal cancer screening services are covered.

1.	1. For what type of plan are you reporting? (CHECK ONE BOX)				
			Commercial (non-Medicare/non-Medicaid HMO, HMO Point-of-Non-commercial (Medicare HMO, Medicare PPO, or Medicaid HOther (Please specify:	HMO)	or PPO)
 Check the box next to the model type and fill in the average number of enrollees (i. individuals/covered lives) for this plan in 2004. (CHECK ONE BOX AND FILL IN ONI 					
			# Enrollees or Insured Individua (Your best estimate is fine)	ls	
			HMO Staff/group model IPA model Network model Mixed model IPA model Mixed model		
			HMO/Point-of-Service model		
			PPO model		
			Other		
3.	Does thi	is plan	directly employ primary care physicians?		
			Yes No (SKIPTO QUESTION 6)		
4.	How do	es this	plan pay the majority of its primary care physicians? (CHECK C)NE BO)	()
			Fee-for-service Capitation		
			Mixture of fee-for-service and capitation Salary		
			Other (Specify:)		
5.			provide incentive payments to primary care physicians based o	n any of	f the
	TOIIOWIN	g: (Cr	HECK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE)	Yes	No
		a.	Results of enrollee satisfaction surveys?		
		b.	Quality of care measures involving the proportion of eligible enrollees for whom cancer screening tests are ordered?		
		C.	Quality measures involving clinical care other than cancer screening?		

	☐ Some ☐ None (SKIPTO QUESTION 15)					
7. In what year did your plan begin covering colorectal cancer screening? 2001 or earlier 2002 2003 2004 or later						
	PLEASE ANSWER EACH QUES THROUGH D, UNLESS DIRECT					
		Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	
		Screening with Fecal Occult Blood Testing (FOBT)	Screening with Flexible Sigmoidoscopy	Screening with Colonoscopy	Screening with Double Contrast Barium Enema	
8.	Do plan benefits cover this service?	☐ Yes, always ☐ Yes, sometimes ☐ No (SKIPTO COLUMN B)	☐ Yes, always☐ Yes, sometimes☐ No (SKIP TO COLUMN C)	☐ Yes, always ☐ Yes, sometimes ☐ No (SKIPTO COLUMN D)	☐ Yes, always ☐ Yes, sometimes ☐ No (SKIP TO QUESTION 13)	
9.	Is coverage restricted to enrollees who are at high risk for colorectal cancer?	☐ Yes, always ☐ Yes, sometimes ☐ No	☐ Yes, always ☐ Yes, sometimes ☐ No	☐ Yes, always ☐ Yes, sometimes ☐ No	☐ Yes, always ☐ Yes, sometimes ☐ No	
10	Does a deductible apply to this service when it is provided in network?	☐ Yes, always ☐ Yes, sometimes ☐ No	☐ Yes, always ☐ Yes, sometimes ☐ No	☐ Yes, always ☐ Yes, sometimes ☐ No	☐ Yes, always ☐ Yes, sometimes ☐ No	
11.	Assuming any deductibles have been met, on average, what out-of-pocket amount do enrollees pay for this service when it is provided in network? (Please include any office visit fees.)	\$0 (SKIP TO COLUMN B) \$1-\$10 \$11-\$25 \$26-\$50 \$51-\$100 >\$100 Don't know	\$0 (SKIP TO COLUMN C) \$1-\$10 \$11-\$25 \$26-\$50 \$51-\$100 >\$100 Don't know	□ \$0 (SKIP TO COLUMN D) □ \$1-\$10 □ \$11-\$25 □ \$26-\$50 □ \$51-\$100 □ >\$100 □ Don't know	\$0 (SKIP TO QUESTION 13) \$1-\$10 \$11-\$25 \$26-\$50 \$51-\$100 >\$100 Don't know	
12	. What type of charge is this?	☐ Co-payment or co-insurance ☐ Other cost Sharing	Co-payment or co-insuranceOther cost Sharing	□ Co-payment or co-insurance□ Other cost Sharing	□ Co-payment or co-insurance□ Other cost Sharing	

6. Do plan benefits cover colorectal cancer screening for all, some, or none of the eligible enrollees?

		Not Influential	Somewhat Influential	Very Influentia
	a. Clinical evidence in the published litera	ture 🗆		
	 b. U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommendations 			
	c. American Cancer Society guidelines			
	d. Cost-effectiveness or cost-benefit studi	es 🗆		
	e. Technology assessment reports			
	f. Medicare policy			
	g. Purchasers other than Medicare			
	h. Other (Specify:	_) 🗆		
	h. Other (Specify: nt, do plan benefits cover any of these emergone BOX ON EACH LINE) Yes, Alway	ing colorectal cand	cer screening ted	_
(CHECK	nt, do plan benefits cover any of these emerg ONE BOX ON EACH LINE) Yes,	ing colorectal cand	cer screening ted	chnologies?
a. Fe b. Vi	nt, do plan benefits cover any of these emerg ONE BOX ON EACH LINE) Yes, Alway	ying colorectal cand Yes, s Sometimes	cer screening ted	Chnologies? Don't Know

PART II. GUIDELINES, PROTOCOLS, AND CLINICAL POLICIES FOR COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING

This section covers guidelines or protocols your plan may have in place, including protocols or clinical policies for the specific modalities that are used to screen for colorectal cancer.

15.	Has your plan issued guidelines or protocols to providers in the plan regarding screening for colorectal cancer?
	☐ Yes ☐ No (SKIPTO QUESTION 26)
16.	For what types of enrollees do these guidelines apply? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)
	☐ Asymptomatic, average-risk☐ High-risk☐ Other (Describe:)
17.	How were the plan's colorectal cancer screening guidelines disseminated to its providers? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)
	 □ Written letters, memos, or provider newsletters □ CME lectures or meetings □ E-mail notice □ Intranet/Web site □ Other (Describe:)
18.	Were the plan's guidelines adopted from guidelines developed elsewhere?
	 ✓ Yes → What is the source? (CHECK/FILL IN ALL THAT APPLY) ☐ U.S. Preventive Services Task Force ☐ American Cancer Society ☐ Other Source
	□ No
19.	In what year did your plan first implement colorectal cancer screening guidelines? (CHECK ONE BOX)
	□ 2001 or earlier□ 2002□ 2003□ 2004 or later
20.	Has your plan issued a <u>revision</u> to these guidelines?
	☐ Yes ☐ No (SKIPTO QUESTION 22)

Z I.	guidelines?					
	 □ 2001 or earlier □ 2002 □ 2003 □ 2004 or later 					
	PLEASE ANSWER EACH QUESTION UNDER COLUMN A BEFORE MOVING TO COLUMNS B THROUGH D, UNLESS DIRECTED OTHERWISE BY A SKIP IN INSTRUCTION.					
		Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D	
		Fecal Occult Blood Testing (FOBT)	Flexible Sigmoidoscopy	Colonoscopy	Double Contrast Barium Enema	
22.	Do plan guidelines or protocol include this test to screen asymptomatic, average-risk enrollees for colorectal cancer?	☐ Yes ☐ No (SKIPTO COLUMN B)	☐ Yes ☐ No (SKIPTO COLUMN C)	☐ Yes ☐ No (SKIPTO COLUMN D)	☐ Yes ☐ No (SKIPTO QUESTION 25)	
23.	At what age should asymptomatic, average-risk enrollees begin screening with this test?	Age No Policy	Age No Policy	Age No Policy	Age No Policy	
24.	At what interval should asymptomatic, average-risk enrollees be screened?	Every Year(s) No Policy	Every Year(s) No Policy	Every Year(s) No Policy	Every Year(s) No Policy	
25.	5. Does your plan make its colorectal cancer screening guidelines available to a majority of primary care providers in an electronic format (such as a Web site or computer information system): (CHECK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE)					
			Yes	No	Don't Know	
	a. At the point of care (e.ç	g. exam room)?				
	b. At their desk or work so the point of care?	tation, away from				

PART III. SYSTEMS FOR CANCER SCREENING

We are interested in the systems that your plan may have in place to recruit enrollees into cancer screening, and/or to track and report screening results. We recognize that, for many plans, these systems may be implemented at the provider rather than the plan level.

26.	Systems for recruiting enrollees into colorectal or other cancer screening (e.g., chart reminders, direct correspondence with individuals due), or for tracking screening results, may be implemented at the plan level, provider level, or both. Please indicate the level at which systems for recruiting and/or tracking are implemented in your plan. (CHECK ONE BOX)
	☐ Plan level only
	☐ Both plan and provider levels
	☐ Provider level only (SKIPTO QUESTION 36)
27.	Does your plan use electronic medical records in the majority of primary care practices or for a majority of plan enrollees? (CHECK ONE BOX)
	□ Yes
	□ No
	☐ Don't Know

This section asks about the specific mechanisms your plan may use for recruiting enrollees and tracking results related to colorectal cancer screening and mammography, two common types of cancer screening. PLEASE ANSWER EACH QUESTION IN COLUMNS A AND B.

	Column A	Column B
	Colorectal Cancer Screening	Mammography
28. Are primary care providers routinely given lists of their enrollees who are not up-to-date for this type of screening?	□ Yes □ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
29. Does the plan have a mechanism to remind providers that an enrollee is due for this screening? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)	 Yes, notation or flag in enrollee's chart Yes, computer prompt Yes, other mechanism (Describe) No 	 Yes, notation or flag in enrollee's chart Yes, computer prompt Yes, other mechanism (Describe) No
30. Does the plan have a mechanism to remind enrollees that they are due for this type of screening? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)	 Yes, verbal prompt from provider during office visit Yes, reminder telephone call Yes, reminder by mail Yes, reminder by e-mail Yes, personalized web page Yes, other mechanism (Describe) No 	 Yes, verbal prompt from provider during office visit Yes, reminder telephone call Yes, reminder by mail Yes, reminder by e-mail Yes, personalized web page Yes, other mechanism (Describe) No

PLEASE ANSWER EACH QUESTION IN COLUMNS A AND B.

		Column A	Column B
		Colorectal Cancer Screening	Mammography
31.	Does the plan have a mechanism to re-contact eligible enrollees who were not screened after the initial contact?	☐ Yes, enrollees contacted by telephone	☐ Yes, enrollees contacted by telephone
	(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)	☐ Yes, enrollees contacted by mail	☐ Yes, enrollees contacted by mail
		☐ Yes, enrollees contacted by e-mail	☐ Yes, enrollees contacted by e-mail
		☐ Yes, other contact (Describe)	☐ Yes, other contact (Describe)
		□ No	□ No
32.	Does the plan track:		
	a. the number of eligible enrollees reminded to receive this type of screening each year?	☐ Yes	☐ Yes
	b. the number of reminded	☐ Yes	☐ Yes
	enrollees who actually complete this type of screening?	□ No	□ No
	 c. the number of enrollees who complete this type of screening, 	☐ Yes	☐ Yes
	whether or not they were reminded?	□ No	□ No
	d. any adverse events (i.e., medical complications)	☐ Yes	☐ Yes
	resulting from this type of screening?	│ □ No	│ □ No

Does the plan routinely measure and review the following screening test results?
(PLEASE ANSWER EACH QUESTION UNDER COLUMNS A AND B.)

	Column A	Column B
	Colorectal Cancer Screening	Mammography
a. % of abnormal screens	☐ Yes	☐ Yes
	□ No	□ No
b. % of false positive tests	☐ Yes	☐ Yes
	□ No	□ No
c. % of false negative tests	☐ Yes	☐ Yes
	□ No	□ No
 d. Positive predictive value of screening tests 	☐ Yes	☐ Yes
# screen-detected cancers # screening tests with positive results	□ No	□ No

34. Does the plan track any of these outcomes for enrollees with an abnormal screening test result? (PLEASE ANSWER EACH QUESTION UNDER COLUMNS A AND B.)

	Column A	Column B
	Colorectal Cancer Screening	Mammography
Whether follow-up procedures were obtained	☐ Yes	☐ Yes ☐ No
b. Results of follow-up procedures	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
 c. Any adverse events (i.e., medical complications) resulting from follow-up procedures 	□ Yes	☐ Yes ☐ No

35.	 Does your plan routinely provide primary care physicians with feedback on their enrollees relative to other physicians (or other comparison groups) in the plan, such as: (CHECK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE) 			
			Yes	No
	a. % of the physician's or practice's eligible enrollees receiving colorectal cancer screening tests?			
	b. % of the physician's or practice's eligible enrollees receiving mammograms?			
36.	. During the last 12 months, did your plan: (CHECK ONE BOX ON EACH LIN			
		Yes	No	Don't Know
	a. Distribute any printed information to enrollees encouraging them to seek colorectal cancer screening?			
	b. Provide on its website information to enrollees encouraging them to seek colorectal cancer screening?			
	c. Conduct or sponsor any meetings, seminars, or continuing medical education sessions on colorectal cancer screening for primary care physicians?			
	d. Conduct or sponsor any meetings, seminars, or continuing medical education sessions on colorectal cancer screening for specialty physicians such as gastroenterologists, general surgeons, or radiologists?			

PART IV. YOUR PLAN'S EXPERIENCES WITH COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING

In May 2003, the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) approved a new Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) measure of colorectal cancer screening. Accredited plans are required to report HEDIS® measures to NCQA. Plans had the option of reporting the colorectal cancer screening measure in HEDIS 2004 (measurement/data year 2003). Accredited plans were required to report the measure in HEDIS 2005 (measurement/data year 2004).

•	,		•			
37.	Has your plan implemented any of the following in response to the HEDIS® colorectal cancer screening measure: (CHECK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE)					
	oor conting medicare. (One of the box of the	Yes	No	Don't Know		
	a. Coverage of more types of colorectal cancer screening tests?					
	b. Lower out-of-pocket charges for colorectal cancer screening?					
	c. New or revised practice guidelines or protocols for colorectal cancer screening?					
	d. New or updated enrollee/provider reminder systems?					
	e. New or updated data systems to better track colorectal cancer screening?					
38. Does your plan measure colorectal cancer screening rates?						
39.	9. In what year did your plan first begin measuring colorectal cancer screening rates? Year					
40.	 O. Has your plan implemented the HEDIS® measure on colorectal cancer screening? Yes No (SKIP TO QUESTION 46) 					
41.	1. In what year did your plan first begin measuring the HEDIS® colorectal cancer screening rate? □ HEDIS® 2004 (measurement/data year 2003)					

☐ HEDIS® 2005 (measurement/data year 2004)

☐ HEDIS® 2006 (measurement/data year 2005)

	Does your plan provide physicians with incentive payments based on their performance related to the HEDIS® measure for: (CHECK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE)					
		Yes	No			
a. Colored	ctal cancer screening?					
b. Mamm	nography?					
43 . Has your pla	n conducted any <u>quality improvem</u>	nent studies of cold	prectal cancer screening?			
	Yes (Describe)					
	No (SKIPTO QUESTION 47)					
	44. In what year did your plan first implement a quality improvement study of colorectal cancer screening? (CHECK ONE BOX)					
	2001 or earlier 2002 2003 2004 2005 or later					
45 . Have you use	ed this study or studies as one of y	your quality impro	vement activities for NCQA?			
	Yes (SKIPTO QUESTION 47)					
	No (SKIPTO QUESTION 47)					
	46. Do you anticipate that your plan will implement the HEDIS® colorectal cancer screening measure in the next 12 months?					
	Yes					
	No					
47. In your plan, which colorectal cancer screening test or test combination is most often used for eligible asymptomatic, average-risk enrollees? (CHECK ONE BOX)						
	FOBT only					
	Flexible sigmoidoscopy only					
	Both FOBT and flexible sigmoido	scopy				
	Colonoscopy only					
	Both FOBT and colonoscopy					
	Other (Describe)					
	Don't know					

48.	Colorectal cancer screening rates are low nationwide. We would like to better understand barriers
	to providing this preventive service that health plans may be experiencing. Please indicate below
	whether, in your opinion, these potential barriers have affected your plan's efforts to provide
	colorectal cancer screening. (CHECK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE)

			Major Barrier	Minor Barrier	Not a Barrier	Don't Know
	a.	Patient reluctance to complete screening exams				
	b.	High turnover of plan membership				
	C.	Lack of provider interest in/support for screening				
	d.	Provider dissatisfaction with the level of reimbursement for screening				
	e.	Lack of consensus on appropriate screening and/or diagnostic modalities				
	f.	Limited resources to conduct screening flexible sigmoidoscopy (i.e., lack of qualified personnel, equipment, facilities) 🗆			
	g.	Limited resources to conduct screening colonoscopy (i.e., lack of qualified personnel, equipment, facilities)				
	h.	Limited resources to provide timely follow-up to positive screening tests				
49.	In your opinion, how actively is colorectal cancer screening promoted by your plan at this time? (CHECK ONE BOX)					
		☐ Very actively				
		☐ Somewhat actively				
		☐ Not actively				
50.	Is there anything else you would like to tell us about colorectal cancer screening within your plan or in general?					

Thank you very much. We greatly appreciate your participation. Study results will help us to better understand the challenging area of colorectal cancer screening. Please return your completed questionnaire in the enclosed postage-paid envelope or fax it to Lorayn Olson at 1-800-786-4816.