

To: AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Providers

Date: March 13, 2023

Subject: Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Summary: During Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana (ACLA) encourages you to ensure your patients are up to date on recommended cancer screenings. Research has consistently shown that healthcare professionals are the most trusted source of recommendations for patients.

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month as recognized by Colorectal Cancer Alliance. (1) Colorectal cancer can be prevented with regular screenings starting at the age of 45.

Recommendations

Previously, colorectal cancer screening was advised for ages 50 – 75. As of May 2021, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) expanded the recommended ages to begin at the age of 45 and continue until age 75. Asymptomatic adults who are between the ages of 45 and 75 are advised to follow this advice. (2)

Click to view the [USPSTF's recommendation for colorectal cancer screening](#).

Several screening options are available. Providers and patients should discuss which test is best. Recommended screening tests that meet criteria for the Colorectal Cancer Screening HEDIS measure include: (2)

- Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) or Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) every year
- Stool DNA-FIT test every 3 years
- Computed Tomography (CT) Colonography every 5 years
- Flexible Sigmoidoscopy every 5 years
- Colonoscopy every 10 years

What Can You Do?

Did you know that patients say they are more likely to have cancer screenings when their healthcare provider recommends it? (3)

- Understand the power of healthcare provider recommendations
- Present and discuss screening options with your patient
- Follow up after tests are ordered: ensure tests performed, results reviewed

- Be aware of social, language or environmental barriers that may be affecting your patient to getting screened
- Document appropriately in the medical record
- Measure screening rates in your practice
- Set goals to increase screening rates in your practice
- Develop systems that remind you, your staff, and patients that screenings are due
- Utilize reports available in NaviNet to inform you of patients that are due
- Review cancer screenings as part of the vital signs assessment
- Emphasize the importance of not delaying screening and care

Questions:

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the care of our members. If you have questions about this communication, please contact AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana's Provider Services department at 1-888-922-0007 or your [Provider Network Management Account Executive](#).

Missed an alert?

You can always find a complete listing of provider alerts on the [Newsletters and Updates](#) page of our website.

Need to update your provider information? Send full details to network@amerihealthcaritasla.com

Where can I find more information on COVID-19?

AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana has updated its website to streamline communications and important notifications about COVID-19. Please visit <http://amerihealthcaritasla.com/covid-19> for update-to-date information for both providers and members, including frequently asked questions, cancellations and postponements, and important provider alerts from AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana and the Louisiana Department of Health.

Works Cited

- 1- <https://www.ccalliance.org/about/awareness-month>
- 2- <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/colorectal-cancer-screening>
- 3- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5518612/>