



FACT SHEET







Quality Health Associates of North Dakota (QHA) is partnering with North Dakota's primary care clinics to increase colorectal cancer (CRC) screening rates across North Dakota—especially among underserved and tribal communities.

In North Dakota...

Colorectal cancer is the:

- 3rd** most diagnosed cancer and the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among cancers that affect both men and women.
- 2nd** leading cause of cancer-related deaths.

QHA will assist participating clinics using the following strategies:

-  • Facilitate completion of a comprehensive readiness assessment
-  • Provide individual technical assistance
-  • Conduct site visits and coaching calls to assess progress, identify barriers, and develop mitigation strategies
-  • Guide the development of clinic-specific action plans for implementing at least two evidence-based interventions (EBIs) to address screening
-  • Advise clinic staff in leveraging their electronic health records (EHRs) to collect and report screening program measures
-  • Share resources, tools and materials

SCREE ND at a Glance

All clinics starting with a baseline **below** 60%:

29.81%

Screening Rate Improvement

21

Participating Clinics

5

Cohorts

Over **7,369**

Additional patients with up-to-date CRC screening

Early Detection Saves Lives...

28% of eligible adults in ND are **NOT up to date with CRC screening.**

This delay in screening contributes to a late-stage diagnosis rate of **35%**

#1 cancer killer among people younger than 50 in US.

360 Estimated **new cases** of CRC this year.

Early-Onset Cancer Trends

Recent data show a troubling rise in early-onset colorectal, breast, and cervical cancers - those diagnosed before age 50. These cancers are increasingly affecting younger populations and often present more aggressively, with later-stage diagnoses. Lifestyle, environmental exposures, and early-life factors may contribute to these trends. While younger patients face unique challenges in diagnosis, treatment and survivorship, disparities in access to screening and care exacerbate outcomes.

- **Colorectal cancer rates are rising fastest among individuals ages 20-29.** (*Sung, Siegel, Laversanne, et al, 2025*)
- **Cervical cancer incidence is climbing among women age 30-44, despite overall declines.** (*American Cancer Society, 2025*)

Efforts must prioritize age-appropriate screening and early detection, prevention strategies, equitable access to HPV vaccination, and research into causes and impacts of early-onset cancers.



Recognizing your clinic's achievements toward 80% in Every Community

The Journey to Excellence milestone program celebrates facilities' efforts to improve colorectal cancer screening. As a ScreeND member, your team will receive education, technical support, and networking opportunities while earning recognition for each milestone achieved. Annual Journey Awards honor your progress as you advance in quality improvement.

Ongoing Requirements *(apply to all phases)*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain current data submission | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain Action Plan and update interventions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in scheduled coaching calls | <i>Milestones 2-5:</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Identify/Review Provider Champion role | <input type="checkbox"/> Share ScreeND performance with clinic board or leadership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Review and set new goals | <input type="checkbox"/> Submit at least one success story or lesson learned from interventions |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Distribute clinician-level data to medical staff (blindly or unblinded as appropriate) |



The Starting Point

- Submit signed Commitment Letter
- Form a multidisciplinary innovation team and identify Provider Champion
- Complete introductory meeting and Clinic Readiness Assessment
- Submit baseline data and current colorectal cancer screening policy
- Develop an Action Plan with at least three interventions and set the Year 1 goal



A Checkpoint for Continued Progress

- Review and update patient education and promotional materials



Reaching Higher Ground

- Ensure all required interventions are addressed
- Use EHR to its fullest potential to implement and sustain evidence-based interventions



Preparing Lasting Impact

- Review EHR capability and user proficiency
- Develop sustainability plan
- Participate in at least one community-focused event



Achieving Enduring Excellence

- Review sustainability plan
- Review EHR capability and user proficiency
- Participate in at least one community-focused event

Helpful Tips...

- Small change may yield significant results. In fact, taking small steps is the best way to achieve lasting improvements.
- Cross-cutting strategies, such as using informatics within the EHR, developing a tracking system, and pre-visit prep, have proven to impact multiple measures.
- Don't wait to share your final success with us and your leadership! We would like to acknowledge the small cycles of change your team is working on to achieve its ultimate goal.
- Remember that quality is everyone's responsibility.