

Subject: **What's New in Healthcare Quality?**

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Healthcare Quality Week 2023

Observed this year the week of October 15-21, Healthcare Quality Week is a dedicated time to celebrate the healthcare quality profession, raise awareness of the positive impact healthcare quality professionals have in their organizations and communities, and prepare for the many challenges and opportunities that lie ahead according to the [National Association for Healthcare Quality \(NAHQ\)](#).

[NAHQ is offering free webinars](#), open to all, highlighting healthcare quality and safety. Be sure to take advantage of this amazing resource.

Thank you to all healthcare quality professionals for the dedicated work you do!

Want Better Patient Engagement? Send a Text!

Good long-term health outcomes depend heavily on patients receiving the services they need, including annual checkups and cancer screenings.

Recent research shows text messages can improve patient engagement for both primary care and screenings. According to one study, text reminders for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screenings increased screening rates between 0.6% and 15%.

[Learn best practices for setting up effective text messaging campaigns](#) to improve rates for mammography this Breast Cancer Awareness month, as well as other wellness and preventive services.

To read more articles like this, visit [Innovista Health](#).

Quality Tips: Get Your Members in for Cancer Screenings

When it comes to cancer, early detection and treatment improves survival rates and reduces mortality. For colorectal cancer, regular screening should begin at age 45; for breast cancer, regular screening should start at age 50.

All women ages 50-74 should also be encouraged to perform monthly self-breast examinations along with scheduling mammogram screenings every two years. If there are risk factors, yearly mammography may be recommended.

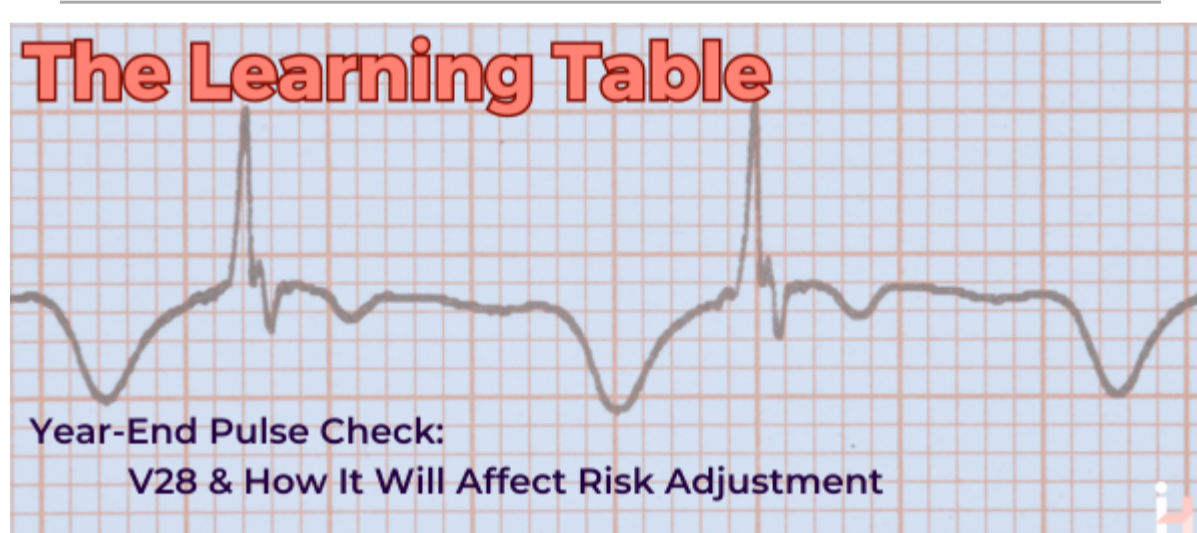
Exclusions would be the following:

- Bilateral Mastectomy (Z90.13)
- Unilateral Mastectomy (Z90.19)
- Patient is male/transgender (F64.9)
- Palliative Care (Z51.5)
- Hospice

For colorectal cancer, if a patient has family history, consider suggesting a colonoscopy instead of a sDNA test (Cologuard) or fecal immunochemical test (FIT). For patients who decline a colonoscopy, recommend alternative screenings like Cologuard, FIT, fecal occult blood test (FOBT), or flexible sigmoidoscopy. Keep FOBT and FIT cards in stock to hand out during visits.

Here are some additional strategies for success in getting patients screened for these cancers:

- Use the Annual Wellness Visit as an opportunity to remind patients about screenings and/or schedule them for the patient. Be sure to follow up to determine if it was completed.
- Add screenings to your annual assessment form and/or EMR template.
- Implement a referral tracking process.
- Educate patients on proper preparation for the ordered test.



Innovista Health is excited to host a monthly webinar series on coding-related topics called The Learning Table.

The November presentation is called **Year-End Pulse Check: V28 & How It Will Affect Risk Adjustment**.

There are two date options:

- Tuesday, Nov. 7 at 6:30 pm
- Thursday, Nov. 9 at 1:00 pm

[This primer from Innovista Health](#) provides basic background of what to expect with V28, but **we highly encourage you to register, using the links below**, to learn as much as you can about this huge change to capitation rates and risk adjustment methodologies that will take place next year.

Register for **Tuesday 11/7**

Register for **Thursday 11/9**



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