

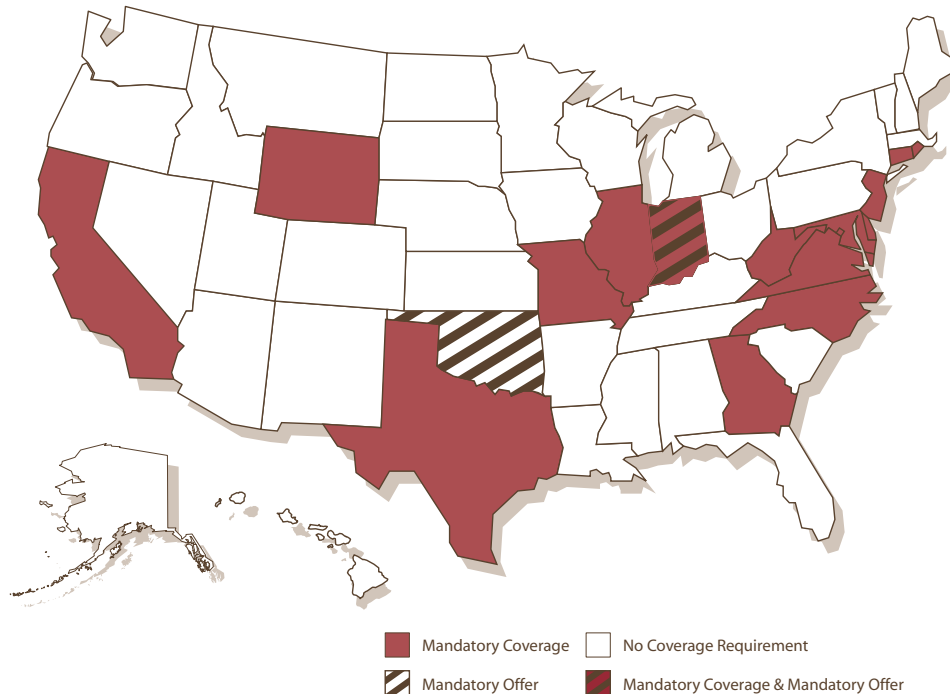


Fact Sheet: Colorectal Cancer

State Cancer
Legislative Database
Program, NCI

States with Laws Related to Third-Party Coverage for Colorectal Cancer Screening

(as of March 31, 2003)



As of March 31, 2003, 16 states and the **District of Columbia** (collectively, "states") have enacted laws that address third-party¹ coverage for colorectal cancer screening. Generally, these laws specify whether insurers must provide or offer coverage, and the types of insurers subject to these requirements. In addition, these laws usually specify the colorectal cancer screening tests covered, including the age and frequency requirements for the testing.

Across the country, 16 states require specified insurers to provide coverage for certain colorectal cancer screening tests, and one state—**Oklahoma**—requires the mandatory offer of such coverage. **Indiana's** law is unique in that it requires specified insurers to provide coverage; however, if the coverage is not employer-based, insurers must offer coverage.

Since 1980, the American Cancer Society (ACS) has recommended preventive screening for colorectal cancer. According to the latest ACS guidelines, published in 2001, beginning at age 50, both men and women should have an annual fecal occult blood test, a flexible sigmoidoscopy every five years, and a colonoscopy every 10 years. It is estimated that screening recommendations, properly employed, could prevent 50 percent of colorectal

cancer deaths per year.² Presently, 10 states—**Connecticut, District of Columbia, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Rhode Island, and Virginia**—require coverage conforming to the ACS's colorectal screening and surveillance guidelines. In **Connecticut** and **Virginia**, the age and frequency requirements must be in accordance with the recommendations of both the ACS and the American College of Gastroenterology.

Four states—**Delaware, Illinois, Texas, and West Virginia**—require certain types of insurers to provide coverage for the colorectal cancer screening tests as specified in each of these state's laws.

Two states—**California** and **Wyoming**—require certain insurers to provide coverage for colorectal cancer screening exams and tests, but do not specify the tests covered or the age and frequency requirements.

¹ Third-parties or insurers subject to the coverage requirements are not specified in this fact sheet, but may include one or more of the following: (1) individual or group insurers, (2) health maintenance or other managed care organizations, and/or (3) Medicaid or another state medical assistance plan.

² Conquering Colorectal Cancer: A Blueprint for the Future—The Report of the Colorectal Cancer Progress Review Group. [Online]. National Cancer Institute's Colorectal Cancer Progress Review Group website. Available at: <http://prg.nci.nih.gov/colorectal/default.html>.

Source: National Cancer Institute: State Cancer Legislative Database Program, Bethesda, MD, 2003.

State Laws Related to Third-Party Coverage for Colorectal Cancer Screening

(as of March 31, 2003)

State	Coverage Requirement	American Cancer Society ¹ and/or American College of Gastroenterology Guidelines	Tests Covered				Age and Frequency Requirements	
			Fecal Occult Blood Test	Sigmoidoscopy	Colonoscopy	Double Contrast Barium Enema	Age 50 and Older	Younger if high risk, history, and/or physician recommendation
Alabama								
Alaska								
Arizona								
Arkansas								
California ²	●							
Colorado								
Connecticut	●	●	●	●	●			
Delaware	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
District of Columbia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Florida								
Georgia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Hawaii								
Idaho								
Illinois	●		●	●			●	●
Indiana ³	●, ■	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Iowa								
Kansas								
Kentucky								
Louisiana								
Maine								
Maryland	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Massachusetts								
Michigan								
Minnesota								
Mississippi								
Missouri	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Montana								
Nebraska								
Nevada								
New Hampshire								
New Jersey	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
New Mexico								
New York								
North Carolina	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
North Dakota								
Ohio								
Oklahoma	■							
Oregon								
Pennsylvania								
Rhode Island	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
South Carolina								
South Dakota								
Tennessee								
Texas	●		●	●	●	●	●	
Utah								
Vermont								
Virginia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Washington								
West Virginia	●		●	●	●	●	●	●
Wisconsin								
Wyoming ⁴	●							
Totals	●=16 ■=2	10	14	14	13	11	13	12

Notes: ¹ The American Cancer Society recommends one of the following five testing schedules for men and women, beginning at age 50: (1) annual fecal occult blood test (FOBT), (2) flexible sigmoidoscopy every five years, (3) annual FOBT plus flexible sigmoidoscopy every five years, (4) double-contrast barium enema, or (5) colonoscopy every 10 years.

² California's law requires certain insurers to provide coverage for all generally medically accepted cancer screening tests.

³ In Indiana, an offer of coverage is required by insurers if the coverage is not employer-based; otherwise coverage is required.

⁴ Wyoming's law requires certain insurers to provide coverage for colorectal cancer screening exams and laboratory tests.

Key: ●=Coverage Required
■=Coverage Must Be Offered

Source: National Cancer Institute: State Cancer Legislative Database Program, Bethesda, MD, 2003.