

One of the real joys of the holiday season is the opportunity to **THANK YOU** for your commitment to continuously improving health care for your patients! We value our partnership... from our team to yours **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

THANK YOU to all of our **Screend** Team Leads who participated in the CDC's Colorectal Cancer Control Program (CRCCP) training. And **CONGRATULATIONS** to **Merideth Bell, Unity Medical Center**, who finished 3rd in the Scavenger Hunt during the event!

Congratulations to **Unity Medical Center** (Grafton) and to **St. Luke's Medical Center** (Crosby) on achieving the **Copper** Milestone! Congratulations to **Towner County Medical Center** (Cando) for achieving the **Silver** Milestone!



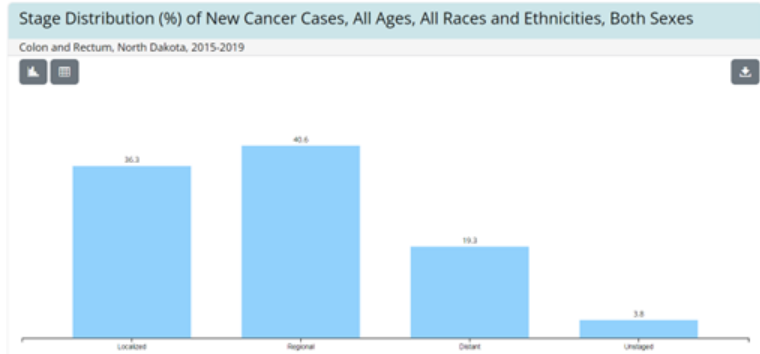
Thank you, Amy Burianek, First Care, Park River, for addressing patient navigation... *what needs do our patients have?* ([Eliciting patient needs](#))

Click on each image to see a holiday social media post you may download and adapt for your clinic.



Dashboard

Stage measures how far a cancer has spread from its origin. The staging system used by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Cancer Institute is called Summary Stage. Summary Stage characterizes invasive cancers as localized, regional, or distant. Localized cancer is confined to the primary site; regional cancer has spread directly beyond the primary site (regional extension) or to regional lymph nodes; and distant cancer has spread to other organs (distant extension) or remote lymph nodes. Some cancers are unstaged or stage is unknown or unspecified. For more information see U.S. Cancer Statistics Data Visualizations Tool Technical Notes, Stage at Diagnosis section.



U.S. Cancer Statistics Working Group. U.S. Cancer Statistics Data Visualizations Tool, based on 2021 submission data (1999-2019); U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Cancer Institute; <https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/dataviz>, released in November 2022.

News, etc.

CRC Screening Coverage Updates | Medicare and Medicaid

"For CY 2023, we are finalizing, as proposed, two updates to expand our Medicare coverage policies for colorectal cancer screening in order to align with recent United States Preventive Services Task Force and professional society recommendations. First, we are expanding Medicare coverage for certain colorectal cancer screening tests by reducing the minimum age payment and coverage limitation from 50 to 45 years. **Second, we are expanding the regulatory definition of colorectal cancer screening tests to include a complete colorectal cancer screening, where a follow-on screening colonoscopy after a Medicare covered non-invasive stool-based colorectal cancer screening test returns a positive result. A functional outcome of our policy for a complete**

colorectal cancer screening will be that, for most beneficiaries, cost sharing will not apply for either the initial stool-based test or the follow-on colonoscopy. Both of these policies reflect our desire to expand access to quality care and to improve health outcomes for patients through prevention and early detection services, as well as through effective treatments. Our revised colorectal cancer screening policies directly advance our health equity goals by promoting access for much needed cancer prevention and early detection in rural communities and communities of color that are especially impacted by the incidence of colorectal cancer." Click [here](#) for the full text. Medicaid Expansion does cover similarly to ACA plans. Click [here](#) for those details.

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