

**Goal:**

- To establish a statewide Cancer Screening Initiative, encompassing a comprehensive education plan that increases the screening<sup>1</sup> rates for breast, cervical and colorectal cancers.

**Objectives:**

- To adopt core measures for screening of breast, cervical and colorectal cancers which are centered on evidence-based medicine and reflect the United States Preventive Services Task Force standards.
- To integrate the core measures into best practice models by educating providers, provider staff and managed care plans in order to reduce differences in clinical practice patterns and improve outcomes.
- To improve public awareness of the essential measures for cancer screening and appropriate diagnostic evaluation in order to maximize the potential for early detection of breast, cervical and colorectal cancers.
- To facilitate appropriate diagnostic evaluation of persons with abnormal screening examinations.

Core Measures <sup>2</sup>	
<b>Breast:</b>	Mammography at least every other year at age 40 and yearly when risk appropriate. Clinical Breast Exam (CBE) yearly, beginning when appropriate Self Breast Exam (SBE) monthly, beginning when appropriate
<b>Cervical:</b>	Pap test yearly; to begin with sexual activity or age 18, whichever occurs first. After three consecutive normal Pap tests, screen every three years.
<b>Colorectal:</b>	Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) yearly after age 50 OR Flexible sigmoidoscopy every 3-5 years

<sup>1</sup> Screening is defined as performing tests to determine the presence or absence of disease in persons with no signs of the specific cancer for which the tests are being performed.

Adapted from "Cancer Epidemiology: Principles and Methods", International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), 1999, WHO Publications ISBN 92 832 0405 0 and Hennekens, C and Buring, J., Epidemiology in Medicine. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, p. 327.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, Guide to Clinical Preventive Services, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Baltimore: Williams and Wilkins, 1996