



Monroe Plan for Medical Care IPA March 2026 Newsletter

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March 2026 is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Colorectal cancer is the fourth most commonly diagnosed cancer in the United States and the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths. Perhaps most importantly, it is a disease that is largely preventable through screening and highly treatable when detected early. According to the American Cancer Society, an estimated 154,000 individuals in the United States will be diagnosed with colon or rectal cancer in 2025, and more than 50,000 people are expected to die from the disease. Despite these sobering statistics, mortality rates from colorectal cancer have steadily declined since the mid-1980s, largely due to increased screening and improvements in lifestyle choices.

In contrast to this overall decline, there has been a concerning rise in colorectal cancer diagnoses among younger individuals. Approximately 10% of cases are now diagnosed in people under the age of 50, and these numbers continue to increase each year. Colorectal cancer is currently the leading cause of cancer-related death among young men and the second leading cause among young women. In response to this trend, the United States Preventive Services Task Force recommends that individuals at average risk begin colorectal cancer screening at age 45.

Screening can be performed using several methods, including noninvasive stool-based tests such as the fecal immunochemical test (FIT), stool DNA testing (Cologuard), and the guaiac-based fecal occult blood test (FOBT), all of which detect hidden blood or abnormal DNA changes in the stool. Alternatively, direct visualization of the colon and rectum can be achieved through colonoscopy or flexible sigmoidoscopy, which allow for both detection and removal of precancerous lesions.

Prevention plays a critical role in reducing colorectal cancer risk. Lifestyle modifications such as reducing red meat consumption, avoiding processed meats (including hot dogs, bacon, and sausage), and increasing intake of vegetables, fruits, and other fiber-rich plant foods are strongly recommended. Regular physical activity has been shown to lower the risk of colorectal cancer by 30–40%. Excessive alcohol consumption is associated with increased risk, with individuals consuming approximately 3.5 alcoholic drinks per day having a 1.5-fold higher risk compared to nondrinkers. Cigarette smoking is also a known risk factor. Additionally, awareness of family history is essential; individuals with a first-degree relative diagnosed with colorectal cancer or advanced polyps should begin screening at age 40 or 10 years earlier than the age at which the youngest affected family member was diagnosed.

When colorectal cancer is detected, a wide range of treatment options is available depending on the tumor's location and stage. These may include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and immunotherapy, often used in combination to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Colorectal cancer remains a significant public health concern, yet it is one of the most preventable and treatable cancers when appropriate screening and lifestyle modifications are implemented. Early detection through recommended screening, coupled with healthy dietary habits, regular exercise, and avoidance of known risk

factors, can dramatically reduce both the incidence and mortality of this disease. Increasing awareness—especially among younger individuals and those with a family history—is essential to reversing current trends and improving long-term outcomes



Quick Links. Clear Guidance. Better Care

- To review how to manage claims click here: [Managing claims](#)
- Availity Appeals and Reconsideration changes: [Availity Appeals and Reconsideration changes](#)
- Submit and track your appeals on Availity Essentials: [Submit and track your appeals on Availity Essentials](#)
- The Provider Manual is customarily updated annually but may be updated more frequently as needed. Providers can access the most current Provider Manual at: [Provider Manual](#)
- Molina Provider Q1 2026 Newsletter: [Provider Newsletter](#)



Network Reminder - Dental Vendor Change

Dental Vendor Change
Effective January 1, 2026

To continue supporting quality dental care for our members, Molina Healthcare of New York, Inc. will transition its dental vendor from DentaQuest to **Liberty Dental**, effective **January 1, 2026**.

Providers who are not currently contracted with Liberty Dental are encouraged to begin the contracting process as soon as possible to help ensure uninterrupted access to care. For contracting questions or to get started, **please contact Liberty Dental directly at Provider@libertydentalplan.com**.

Thank you for your continued partnership in caring for Molina members.

Welcome to Molina Healthcare - Affinity by Molina Healthcare

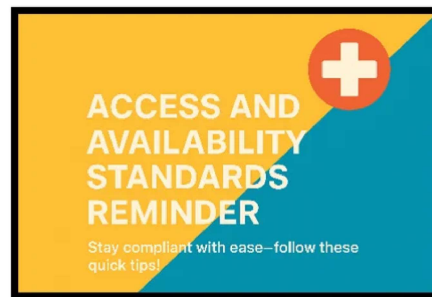
Providers can access the Availity Essentials portal at MolinaHealthcare.com or click : [Molina Healthcare | Availity](#).

Once in the Availity Portal office staff can search:

- Search for patients and check member eligibility.
- Submit service request authorizations and/or claims and check status.
- Review patient care plans.
- Obtain CAHPS tip sheets.
- Participate in online cultural competency training.

Access and Availability Standards Reminder

New York State routinely completes surveillance activities to evaluate compliance with the following appointment availability standards, (Medicaid Model Contract 15.2, Appointment Availability Standards): [Access-to-Care_82525.docx](#)



Know the Culture. Elevate the Care

Reminder : Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) training is required to be completed annually.

Monroe Plan for Medical Care, IPA along with Molina Healthcare, Inc., expects providers to deliver services that affirm and respect individuals of all backgrounds and abilities, safeguarding their dignity. Employee and provider training, along with quality monitoring, support this commitment. Accordingly, Molina includes Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) training in its programs and regularly offers related education to providers and staff.

These trainings can be viewed by logging onto the Availity Portal, choose the Payor Molina Healthcare-Affinity By Molina Healthcare , then select the Resources Tab at the top of the section, and finally scroll down to view the Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Trainings. Once trainings have been completed an attestation form can be submitted through the portal.

Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services: Training for health care providers and staff include:

- Module 1: Introduction to Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services
- Module 2: Health Outcomes
- Module 3: Seniors and Persons with Disabilities
- Module 4: LGBTQ and Immigrants/ Refugees (optional)
- Module 5: Providing Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services
- Provider Training Attestation Form (All Other State Providers)

Other Cultural Competency Provider Training Resources and Links:

- [Cultural Competency Provider Training](#)
- [Better Communication, Better Care](#)
- [Guidance & Resource Materials | ADA.gov](#)
- [The Arc of the United States | Disability Rights, Advocacy & Inclusion](#)
- [Virginia Commonwealth University/Center on Society and Health](#)
- [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#)

Providers and appropriate staff should complete this training in the next 12 months and annually thereafter. Be sure to review the bulletin and resource below to ensure cultural competency and compliance!

[Click here to download: NYSDOH Cultural Competency Notice](#)

[Click here to download: Are You Culturally Competent](#)



Monroe Plan for Medical Care Provider Guide

Unlock key insights in the Monroe Plan for Medical Care Provider Guide: Monroe Plan Provider Guide. Stay informed-Don't miss out: Click on this link to learn more: [Monroe-Plan-Provider-Orientation-Guide](#).

If you have any questions, please reach out to:

pfmemails@monroeplan.com or providerrelations@monroeplan.com.

Provider Data Validation

Kindly ensure your data is up to date by submitting the necessary documentation to update your practice's information to pfmemails@monroeplan.com.

These changes include:

- Change in office location(s)/address, office hours, phone, fax or email.
- Addition or closure of office location(s).
- Addition of a provider (within an existing clinic/practice).
- Change in provider or practice name, Tax ID and/or NPI.
- Opening or closing your practice to new patients (PCPs only).
- Change in specialty.
- Change in billing address.
- Any other information that may impact member access to care.

Visit the Provider Resources & Forms – Monroe Plan for Medical Care section of our website. Click the link here: [Provider Resources & Forms – Monroe Plan for Medical Care](#). You will have the option to download a PDF version of the form and email the form to pfmemails@monroeplan.com.



Essential, Easy-to-Find Resources Available on Monroe Plan for Medical Care Website

- To save you time, we make it easy for you to obtain the support you need on the , [Monroe Plan for Medical Care](#) website.
- Use our page to find out more about our services here: [About Us – Monroe Plan for Medical Care](#).
- Find applications, forms, tip sheets, and more can be found here: [Provider Resources & Forms – Monroe Plan for Medical Care](#)
- Find our posted fee schedule effective 1/1/2024: [Provider Fee Schedules – Monroe Plan for Medical Care](#).
- Provider Guide Link: [Monroe-Plan-Provider-Orientation-Guide](#)
- Previous newsletters and bulletins can be found here: [Provider News & Events – Monroe Plan Communications](#)



Upcoming Opportunities to Offer Parents at Your Practice:

Triple P Positive Parenting Program

Value Network

NEW YORK STATE Office of Addiction Services and Supports

PARENTING IS HARD. EPIC CAN HELP.

PROGRAM TOPICS:

- Dealing with Disobedience
- Managing Fighting & Aggression
- Developing Good Bedtime Routines
- Hassle-Free Shopping with Children

WHEN:
Saturdays
February 28 - March 28
10am-12pm

Classes held on **ZOOM**

REGISTER TODAY! Call, Text, Email or Scan

Siena Reynolds • 716-332-4156
 Reynolds@EPICforChildren.org

EPIC
 Every Person Influences Children

ZOOM
Saturdays
10am - 12pm

ready set Parent!

April 18th - May 23rd

Incentives & Giveaways
throughout program

For expecting and new parents, discussion topics include:

- Infant Milestones
- Safe Sleep & SIDS
- When to Call the Doctor
- Creating Routines
- Infant Nutrition & Health

Join the village it takes to raise a child

REGISTER TODAY! Call/TXT/Email or Scan

Siena Reynolds • 716-332-4136
ReynoldsSaEPICforChildren.org

Monore Plan for Medical Care, 1120 Pittsford Victor Road, Pittsford, NY 14564, 585-244-5550

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