

SIXTEENTH STREET COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS COLORECTAL CANCER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT TEAM

In December 2023, Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers' (Sixteenth Street) Dr. Brian Hilgeman, Medical Director of Education, Research, Quality Improvement (QI) and HIV, developed a strategy to collaborate with Exact Sciences Laboratories to reduce patient access barriers to colorectal cancer (CRC) screening for all patients, regardless of their ability to pay. At the time, Sixteenth Street's screening rate was 44%, which left most eligible patients behind on their CRC screening.

The CRC QI team worked to set up a bi-directional Health Level 7 (HL7) interface with their Electronic Health Record (EHR), OCHIN Epic, and Exact Sciences to enable seamless ordering and results of the CRC test Cologuard®. Sixteenth Street also gained access to Exact Science EpicCare Link portal, which provided access to Cologuard® order status to assist with patient follow-up and care gap closures. The team also worked with Exact Sciences Health Equity & Access to implement a federally qualified health center-specific Patient Assistance Program to offer a sliding fee scale to uninsured patients, reducing financial barriers. The collective efforts led to 380 patients receiving a Cologuard® test kit, and 192 patients successfully screened as of August 2024. The current 90-day adherence rate for Cologuard® is 59%.



Sixteenth Street received this nomination from Exact Sciences, an external lab partner who celebrated a significant improvement in CRC by implementing a new non-invasive screening modality.

Team Members:

- Dr. Brian Hilgeman, Medical Director of Education, Research, Quality Improvement (QI) and HIV
- Traci Wilson, Medical Operations Manager
- Dawn Welty, Senior Application Analyst
- Angela Spitzer, Application Analyst
- Rhona Robins, Director of Revenue Cycle
- Lisa Stueland, Quality improvement Specialist