



NORTH DAKOTA CANCER COALITION

Planning for a cancer-free future

NDCC News: | February 2026

Upcoming Events

2026 ANNUAL MEETINGS

Dakota Medical Foundation
4321 20th Ave. S. Fargo, ND

Day 1
NORTH DAKOTA CANCER COALITION
Planning for a cancer-free future
Wednesday, April 29, 2026
1:00pm-4:30pm

Day 2
NORTH DAKOTA COLORECTAL CANCER ROUNDTABLE
Thursday, April 30, 2026
8:45 am-12:30 pm

**Empower, Educate, Encourage:
TOGETHER WE THRIVE**

Objectives:
The learner will be able to:

- Summarize key insights from the survivor stories and identify at least one actionable takeaway to integrate into practice.
- Explain the significance of HPV immunization and propose one practical approach to increase vaccination rates in their practice
- Evaluate current strategies for breast, lung, and colorectal cancer screening and access-to-care projects, and generate one idea for improvement in practice
- Demonstrate understanding of motivational interviewing by drafting two questions to support tobacco or alcohol cessation.
- Identify one key insight from group discussions and outline a next step for the organization or Action Team

Registration is open!

www.ndcancercoalition.org/register

Sponsorship & Exhibitor registration:

www.ndcancercoalition.org/join-us/sponsorship

Continuing Education credits for nursing are applied for

Host Hotels for the 2026 NDCC and NDCCRT

Annual Meetings:

Wingate by Windham

4429 19th Ave SW, Fargo

Ask for Corporate Rate

1 bed = \$90; 2 beds = \$95

Valid until day of arrival but only if rooms are still available.

Reservations: 701-281-9133

Staybridge Suites

4300 20th Ave. S. Fargo

Reservations: 701-281-4900 or online: [Select](#)

[Your Room](#)

Single Queen: \$129 | King Suite: \$139

Deadline to secure group discount: March 30th by 5 pm CST

Delta Hotels

1635 42nd St. SW, Fargo

[Book your group rate for ND Cancer Coalition Room Block](#)

Block rate of \$179 available Tuesday, April 28-Thursday, April 30

Last Day to Book: Friday, March 27, 2026



Every Screen Counts

A PRACTICAL 3-PART WEBINAR SERIES
TO IMPROVE COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING

WEBINAR BY



Colorectal cancer remains a leading cause of cancer-related death, yet screening and timely follow-up continue to lag in rural and underserved communities. This practical three-part webinar series is designed to support health centers and rural clinics in closing these gaps through evidence-based strategies, community-informed approaches, and effective use of data. Across three sessions, participants will explore how to implement proven colorectal cancer screening interventions in resource-limited settings, gain a deeper understanding of barriers that influence screening behaviors in rural populations, and learn how to translate state and clinic-level data into actionable workflows that drive improvement. **Intended Audience** This webinar series is intended for healthcare providers and practitioners, including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, and care team members working in health centers, rural health clinics, and other safety-net settings. It will also be valuable for quality improvement staff, population health and data specialists, patient navigators, clinic administrators, public health professionals, and state or community partners involved in colorectal cancer screening, follow-up, and cancer prevention efforts.

Continuing Education

CME and CE credits are available for the following health professions: dentists, pharmacists, physicians (including nurse practitioners), nurses, physician assistants, psychologists, and social workers.

Session 1: Implementing Evidence-Based Colorectal Cancer Screening Strategies in Rural Communities

Tuesday, March 10

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm CT | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm MT

Speaker: Dr. Anne Gaglioti, MD, MS, FAAFP

Session 2: Beyond the Numbers: Understanding Rural Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening

Tuesday, March 17

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm CT | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm MT

Speaker: Shawnda Schroeder, PhD, MA

Session 3: From Data to Action: Leveraging State Resources and Population Health Tools to Improve Colorectal Cancer Outcomes

Tuesday, March 24

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm CT | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm MT

Speakers: Nikki Medalen, MS, BSN, RN, CPHQ; Jonathan Gardner, Network Administrator; Brooke Lusk, BS, RN; Jennifer Saueressig, Clinical Quality Manager

[REGISTER](#)

National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable's 2026 National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month Webcast

Wednesday, March 18 | 1:00-2:00 pm CT/ 12:00-1:00 pm MT

[Register](#)

Let's Wipe out Colon Cancer T-Shirt Sale

The storefront for Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month t-shirts is open for business only until February ! Choose from short- and long-sleeve t-shirts and a hoodie (\$25, \$29, or \$37, respectively) or buy all three! Flat rate shipping is \$6.75.

Order your shirt and shirts for your team at: [ND Colorectal Cancer Roundtable | Awareness Month T-shirts](#)

Turn ND Blue

The North Dakota Cancer Coalition is once again hosting the 10th Annual Turn ND Blue Photo Contest, sponsored by Exact Sciences! Please consider participation. Winners of each division will be presented with a canvas print of their photo at the NDCC Annual Meeting in April! Deadline for submission is Friday, March 13. Details are available here: [Turn ND Blue](#)

NEWS

North Dakota Cancer Coalition joins the ACS National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable

NCCRT is very pleased to welcome the North Dakota Cancer Coalition as a new organizational member of the American Cancer Society National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable (ACS NCCRT)! Attached please find an official welcome letter accepting your application to the ACS NCCRT.

American Cancer Society's Annual Cancer Report

The American Cancer Society releases cancer statistics annually; they project that in 2026 there will be about 2,114,850 new cancer cases and 626,140 cancer deaths. The cancer mortality rate continued to decline through 2023, averting 4.8 million deaths since 1991. This decline is due to smoking reduction, earlier detection, and improved treatment.

Read the details about various cancers at <https://acsjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.3322/caac.70043>

Siegel, R. L., Kratzer, T. B., Wagle, N. S., Sung, H., & Jemal, A. (2026). Cancer statistics, 2026. *CA: a cancer journal for clinicians*, 76(1), e70043. <https://doi.org/10.3322/caac.70043>

HRSA Updates Women's Preventive Services Guidelines: What ND Providers and Partners Should Know

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has released updated **Women's Preventive Services Guidelines**, which determine which preventive services must be covered by most health insurance plans **without cost-sharing** under the Affordable Care Act. These updates help ensure women have access to evidence-based preventive care across their lifespan, including important improvements in *cancer-related screening and support services*.

Key Cancer-Related Updates

- **New cervical cancer screening options**

As of January 2026, HRSA now includes a recommendation allowing women ages **30–65 at average risk** to **self-collect samples** for cervical cancer testing as one option for routine screening. The guideline also clarifies the follow-up testing needed to complete the screening process. These updates go into effect for most insurance plans beginning in **2027**. [[hrsa.gov](https://www.hrsa.gov)]

- **Breast cancer screening recommendations**

Beginning in 2026, average-risk women are recommended to start **annual mammography screening between ages 40 and 50** and continue through **at least age 74**. If additional imaging—such as MRI, ultrasound, or diagnostic mammography—is needed during screening, these services are also considered preventive and should be billed as such. [[1199seiubenefits.org](https://www.1199seiubenefits.org)]

- **Patient navigation for cancer screening**

HRSA now supports individualized **patient navigation services** to help women access breast and cervical cancer screenings and follow-up care. Navigation may include help scheduling appointments, understanding results, and overcoming logistical or financial barriers. [[1199seiubenefits.org](https://www.1199seiubenefits.org)]

Why These Updates Matter for North Dakota

Early detection remains one of the most effective tools in reducing cancer burden—especially in rural states like North Dakota, where access challenges can delay screening. The inclusion of **self-collected cervical samples** and **navigation services** may expand reach to more women, particularly those in frontier or underserved areas.

Additionally, clearer preventive coverage requirements for supplemental breast imaging can reduce the financial uncertainty that often discourages follow-up after an abnormal screening.

Background

HRSA first established these guidelines in 2011 and continues to update them based on rigorous scientific review conducted by the **Women's Preventive Services Initiative (WPSI)**, along with public input and expert consensus.

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States, behind cancer of the lung and bronchus. CRC is increasingly being diagnosed in people under the age of 50. The incidence of early-onset CRC has increased about 2% per year since 1994.

The Colorectal Cancer Alliance has established that March 6th, 2026 will be Dress in Blue Day to let allies everywhere join the mission to end colorectal cancer. By wearing blue, you bring awareness to this disease, support the work, and honor all impacted by colorectal cancer. Join in the fun by encouraging your teams to dress in blue, take a photo and share it on social media, including the hashtag #DressInBlueDay.

Check out these resources:

- [Fight Colorectal Cancer 2026 Awareness Month Toolkit](#)
- [Colorectal Cancer Alliance CRC Awareness Month Toolkit](#)
- [Turn ND Blue Photo Contest](#)
- [Amazon CRC Awareness Swag](#)
- [Oriental Trading Awareness Swag](#)

March is Kidney Cancer Awareness Month

Cancer of the kidney is among the most common cancers in the United States, with approximately 81,610 new diagnoses and 14,390 deaths in 2024.

March is Multiple Myeloma Awareness Month

Also known as Myeloma Action Month, the goal is to raise awareness, fund research, and support those affected by the second most common blood cancer.

New sunscreen: Bemotrizinol

The US FDA said it will move quickly to add bemotrizinol (which has been approved in Europe for 25 years) as a generally recognized safe and effective ingredient for use in sunscreens for adults and children aged 6 years or older. The agency has not allowed any new sunscreen ingredient since 1999. The agency announced its intention to add bemotrizinol for use as a sunscreen active ingredient at concentrations up to 6%.

Quality Health Associates of North Dakota's new partnership with Mountain Pacific Quality Health Foundation

Quality Health Associates of North Dakota (QHA) is in the process of joining [Mountain Pacific](#). Together, we are strengthening our shared mission to improve health care quality and access across the region while continuing to serve North Dakota. [Learn more.](#)

Current Contracts and staff will transition to Mountain Pacific by June of 2026. Emails will work through 2026, but encourage you to watch for notifications to update contacts as staff are transitioned. QHA will officially close at end of June 2026.

Stay CONNECTED!



'LIKE' US ON FACEBOOK
@NDCANCERCOALITION

The NDCC has a facebook page of valuable information for your cancer prevention and treatment activities. If you have news to share there, contact:
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