

Low Value Care in Colorado

What is Low Value Care?

According to a [study published](#) by the Journal of the American Medical Association, an estimated 10% to 20% of health care spending in the United States is considered low value, or treatments, diagnostic tests, and screenings where the risk of harm or cost exceeds the likely benefit for patients. Despite decades-long efforts to measure and reduce low value services, they remain prevalent across the country and contribute to billions of dollars in health care spending each year.

To address this problem, a variety of medical organizations came together under the [Choosing Wisely](#) campaign launched by the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation in 2012 to raise provider and patient awareness about low value care. These medical specialty societies aligned to identify services commonly used in their field known to be potentially harmful or overused. There are now over 550 Choosing Wisely services that are considered low value care.

Low Value Care in Colorado

To minimize low value care in Colorado, it's necessary to understand which services are occurring most often, in which areas of the state, and the impact those services are having on patients and health care spending. To this end, CIVHC evaluates claims in the Colorado All Payer Claims Database (CO APCD) to measure low value care in Colorado.

CIVHC published the first Low Value Care in Colorado report in March 2020 and continues to update its Low Value Care analyses. The [most recent](#) public report evaluates 58 low value care services that can be identified using claims data for over five million Coloradans with both private and public health insurance in the CO APCD. These findings can help consumers, providers, and payers identify opportunities to reduce low value care.

To view the full interactive analysis and download an accompanying data file, please visit our website or contact us at info@civhc.org.

 [Full interactive analysis](#)

 civhc.org

 [Accompanying data file](#)

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Potential ways to use the data:

Providers

CIVHC can provide provider-specific data identifying your top low value care services and the cost impact that you can use as a benchmark to target reducing low value services for your patients.

Policy Makers

Consider policy to encourage reducing the volume and cost impact of low value services.


Payers


Evaluate payment models that reward reduction in low value care services.

Consumers

Educate yourself on common low value care services and discuss treatment options with your providers.

Examples of top low value care services in Colorado include:

 Inappropriate opioid prescription

 Screening for 25-OH-Vitamin Deficiency

 Prostate Cancer Screening (PSA)

 Imaging Test for Eye Disease

 Coronary Angiography