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Summary

Quality assurance indicators and requirements

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The European Commission is developing a voluntary, modular quality assurance scheme for colorectal cancer screening and care services across Europe, covering the entire care pathway from screening through treatment to survivorship.

KEY POINTS

- The scheme targets all colorectal cancer screening and care services including screening units, endoscopy units, cancer centres, hospitals and clinics, with a stepwise certification approach allowing flexibility for infrastructure diversity across Europe.
- Quality indicators are evidence-based and evaluated on three criteria: scientific soundness, responsiveness to improve patient-important outcomes, and feasibility of implementation, with indicators meeting all three becoming requirements.
- Adenoma detection rate was evaluated as an example quality indicator, with 16 studies reviewed showing moderate strength of evidence that lower detection rates are associated with higher risk of interval cancer, and the indicator was deemed scientifically sound, responsive and feasible.
- The scheme builds on a published European Quality Assurance Scheme for Breast Cancer services that is currently being implemented across Europe, with the colorectal cancer version coming soon.
- In the discussion, the speaker emphasized that implementation requires data infrastructure including databases and pathology system integration, with European funding opportunities available but requiring local investment and commitment for sustainability.
- The speaker stated in the discussion that European Commission backing should help push member states toward practical implementation in endoscopy units and throughout the cancer care pathway.

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