Policy Scorecard for Saudi Arabia

In partnership with Policy Wisdom
The Policy Scorecards© have been developed by Policy Wisdom using its WiSE SCORECARD© methodology, with the support of Pfizer and the collaboration of the Global Colon Cancer Association.

Colorectal Cancer
Saudi Arabia
Colorectal Cancer

Saudi Arabia
1. **CRC is prioritized, and national programs/plans/policies are in place**  
MoH acknowledges the priority of CRC in the national cancer program/plan/strategy/policy and/or the need to establish a national CRC policy.  
A commission/working group is established to study the evidence and listen to stakeholders in the process of developing/updating CRC clinical guidelines.  

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<th>4/6</th>
<th>67%</th>
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2. **Health care budget allocated**  
Sustainable sources of funding address all programs and activities included in the national program/plan/strategy/policy for CRC.  
A transparent process is established to study the evidence and listen to stakeholders in the process of developing/updating CRC clinical guidelines.  

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<th>1/4</th>
<th>25%</th>
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3. **Clinical practice guidelines are developed and updated**  
Clinical practice guidelines are comprehensive and include state-of-art diagnostic testing, and innovative treatment.  
Clinical practice guidelines are updated on a regular and planned basis.  
Clinical guidelines become mandatory for the delivery of care.  

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<th>8/10</th>
<th>80%</th>
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4. **Innovative technologies and medicines are promptly reimbursed**  
Screening and diagnostic tests are fully reimbursed according to CRC clinical practice guidelines.  
A commission/working bodies/agencies to develop CRC clinical practice guidelines.  

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<th>7/10</th>
<th>70%</th>
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5. **Timely and equitable access to comprehensive diagnosis is guaranteed**  
MoH actively executes CRC awareness programs.  
Legal framework exists to guarantee timely initiation of treatment.  
Legal framework ensures continuity of treatment once started.  

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<th>7/10</th>
<th>70%</th>
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6. **Timely and equitable access to quality treatment is guaranteed**  
MoH establishes and guarantees execution of population-wide screening program in alignment with the indications provided by the applicable Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs).  
Legal framework guarantees timely and equitable access to diagnosis after a positive screening result.  
MoH ensures appropriate healthcare workforce, infrastructure and resources to manage CRC across the country.  

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<th>50%</th>
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**ADVANCES IN POLICY MAKING FOR COLORECTAL CANCER**

- **0 = No**
- **1 = Partially**
- **2 = Yes**

- **<59%**  
- **60-79%**  
- **80-89%**  
- **90-100%**  

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**SAUDI ARABIA**

Total Scoring: 31/48 (65%)

Overall country progress: **Moderate**
**Key Findings**

- CRC is mentioned as the second most common cancer in Saudi Arabia in the National Plan on Cancer Control 2014-2025, which the plan aims to reduce the incidence of cancer as a long-term goal within 10 years. There is a national cancer registry in place, that includes information on CRC incidence and prevalence but no disease burden.

- Evidence suggests that there is no specific allocation of resources for CRC; however, Saudi Arabia's cancer care is offered free to citizens, and patients receive all medications, procedures, and tests for free in government hospitals. Pharmaceuticals are fully reimbursed if they are listed in the formularies of governmental healthcare sectors, but they differ from one sector to another.

- Saudi Arabia adheres to National Comprehensive Center Network (NCCN) guidelines and participates in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)-NCCN Regional Coordinating Center to facilitate the dissemination of cancer-related information, including the adaptation of NCCN guidelines to the MENA region. These cover CRC.

- The MoH usually covers healthcare services and screening tests. In 2017, the MoH initiated the Colorectal Cancer Early Detection Project, and, nowadays, services for the early detection of CRC are provided through primary healthcare centers and hospitals in different regions in Saudi Arabia. There is some evidence of Saudi Arabia pursuing initiatives to bring innovative tests into diagnostic clinical practice.

- Currently, there is no HTA for the cost-effectiveness of oncology medication in Saudi Arabia. However, as part of its 2030 Vision, Saudi Arabia is establishing a centralized HTA entity to support effective, evidence-based decision-making for its population and healthcare system needs.

- Innovative contracting models (including managed entry agreements) have been used in Saudi Arabia, although we didn’t find evidence of innovative financing mechanisms being used for CRC treatments.

- No evidence was found regarding MoH conducting awareness activities on CRC.

- Evidence suggests that there are no legal frameworks that guarantee equitable access to diagnosis after a positive screening result or ensure prompt treatment initiation or continuity once started.


