

Medical Coverage Policy | Colorectal Screening Mandate



EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2004
POLICY LAST UPDATED: 04/01/2014

OVERVIEW

This policy documents coverage for colorectal screening services. In accordance with Rhode Island General Law § 27-20-44 Prostate and Colorectal examinations, Subscribers to any nonprofit medical service plan shall be afforded coverage under the plan for prostate and colorectal examinations and laboratory tests for cancer for any nonsymptomatic person covered under the policy or contract, in accordance with the current American Cancer Society guidelines.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Prior authorization is not required.

POLICY STATEMENT

Blue CHiP for Medicare

State Mandates do not apply to Blue CHiP for Medicare. Colorectal screening is covered for Blue CHiP for Medicare members under the related policy for Preventive Services for Blue CHiP for Medicare members.

Commercial Products

Colorectal examinations and laboratory tests for cancer are covered in accordance with the current American Cancer Society guidelines. For plans that have coverage for preventive services, please refer to the related policy Preventive Services for Commercial Members.

MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not Applicable

BACKGROUND

Rhode Island General Law § 27-20-44 **Prostate and colorectal examinations – Coverage mandated.** – Subscribers to any nonprofit medical service plan shall be afforded coverage under the plan for prostate and colorectal examinations and laboratory tests for cancer for any nonsymptomatic person covered under the policy or contract, in accordance with the current American Cancer Society guidelines.

Current American Cancer Society guidelines for Colon and rectal cancer:

Beginning at age 50, both men and women at average risk for developing colorectal cancer should use one of the screening tests below:

Tests that find polyps and cancer:

- flexible sigmoidoscopy every 5 years
- colonoscopy every 10 years
- double contrast barium enema every 5 years
- CT colonography (virtual colonoscopy) every 5 years

Tests that generally find cancer:

- fecal occult blood test (FOBT) every year**
- fecal immunochemical test (FIT) every year**
- stool DNA test (sDNA), interval uncertain***

Positive test results should be followed up with a colonoscopy.

**When FOBT or FIT is used as a screening test, the take-home multiple sample method should be used. A FOBT or FIT done during a digital rectal exam in the doctor's office is not adequate for screening.

***This test is mentioned because it was a part of the ACS guidelines published in 2008, but it is no longer available

Increased Risk Factors:

Members should discuss with their physician initiating earlier colorectal cancer screening and/or increased screening when the following colorectal cancer risk factors are present:

- a personal history of colorectal cancer or adenomatous polyps
- a personal history of chronic inflammatory bowel disease (Crohns disease or ulcerative colitis)
- a strong family history of colorectal cancer or polyps (cancer or polyps in a first-degree relative [parent, sibling, or child] younger than 60 or in 2 or more first-degree relatives of any age)
- a known family history of hereditary colorectal cancer syndromes such as familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP) or hereditary non-polyposis colon cancer (HNPCC)

COVERAGE

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate Evidence of Coverage, Subscriber Agreement, or Benefit Booklet for applicable prevention and early detection services, diagnostic imaging, lab, and machine tests and surgical benefits/coverage.

CODING

Refer to coding contained in Related Policies

RELATED POLICIES

Preventive Services for BlueCHiP for Medicare

Preventive Services for Commercial Members

PUBLISHED

Provider Update	June 2014
Provider Update	Apr 2013
Provider Update	Mar 2011
Provider Update	Mar 2010
Provider Update	Apr 2009
Provider Update	Apr 2008
Policy Update	Jun 2007

REFERENCES

Rhode Island General Law § 27-20-44 Prostate and colorectal examinations:

<http://webservice.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/title27/27-20/27-20-44.HTM>

American Cancer Society Guidelines for the Early Detection of Colon and Rectal Cancer.

<http://www.cancer.org/healthy/findcancerearly/cancerscreeningguidelines/american-cancer-society-guidelines-for-the-early-detection-of-cancer>

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services/Overview/Colorectal Cancer Screening:
<http://www.medicare.gov/coverage/colorectal-cancer-screenings.html>

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