



**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 07|01|2004  
**POLICY LAST UPDATED:** 02|07|2017

## 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.

## MEDICAL CRITERIA

Not applicable

## PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Not applicable

## POLICY STATEMENT

### BlueCHiP for Medicare

State mandates do not apply to BlueCHiP for Medicare. Colorectal screening is covered for BlueCHiP for Medicare members under the related policy for Preventive Services for BlueCHiP 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 for Preventive Services for Commercial members.

## COVERAGE

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

## 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 mainly find cancer:

- Guaiac-based fecal occult blood test (gFOBT) every year\*, \*\*
- Fecal immunochemical test (FIT) every year\*, \*\*
- Stool DNA test (sDNA), every 3 years\*

\* Colonoscopy should be done if test results are positive.

\*\* Highly sensitive versions of these tests should be used with the take-home multiple sample method. An FOBT or FIT done during a digital rectal exam in the doctor's office is not enough for screening.

### **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:

- Personal history of colorectal cancer or adenomatous polyps
- Personal history of chronic inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis)
- Strong family history of colorectal cancer or polyps
- Known family history of hereditary colorectal cancer syndromes such as familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP) or hereditary non-polyposis colon cancer (HNPCC)

Screening guidelines for those with increased or high risk of colorectal cancer may be accessed from the current American Cancer Society recommendations for colorectal cancer early detection.

### **CODING**

Refer to coding contained in Related Policies.

### **RELATED POLICIES**

Preventive Services for BlueCHiP for Medicare Members

Preventive Services for Commercial Members

### **PUBLISHED**

Provider Update, April 2017

Provider Update, April 2016

Provider Update, May 2015

Provider Update, June 2014

Provider Update, April 2013

Provider Update, April 2012

Provider Update, March 2011

Provider Update, March 2010

Provider Update, April 2009

### **REFERENCES**

1. Rhode Island General Law § 27-20-44 Prostate and colorectal

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

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

<http://www.cancer.org/cancer/colonandrectumcancer/moreinformation/colonandrectumcancerearlydetection/colorectal-cancer-early-detection-acs-recommendations>

3. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services/Overview/Colorectal Cancer

Screening: <http://www.medicare.gov/coverage/colorectal-cancer-screenings.html>

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