

Federal Employee Program Encouraging Colon Cancer Screening for Members

Your Florida Blue patients insured under the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Federal Employee Plan® (FEP) will receive a letter this month encouraging them to screen for colon cancer. In the letter, our medical director recommends your FEP patients ask you about this lifesaving screening; about the pros and cons of each test; and how often they should test. Thank you in advance for speaking with your patients about the appropriate test for them.

FEP patients who will receive our letter are encouraged to have a cancer screening through a **Colonoscopy** or a **Cologuard**® test – both options covered under their Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Benefit Plan. These preventive screenings are available at \$0 cost share to our members when the tests are ordered by a participating in-network doctor.

Many people find the Cologuard test easier than a colonoscopy, however, more frequent tests need to be done. If the test results are “positive” (if hidden blood is detected), a patient may still need a colonoscopy for further analysis. If polyps are present during the colonoscopy, patients may have a copay related to services/procedures. Additionally, a colonoscopy scheduled after a “positive” test result will be considered “diagnostic” instead of “preventive.” Your patient may have to pay a deductible, copay or coinsurance for a non-preventive test.

FEP patients may learn more about coverage of these tests by reading the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Benefit Plan brochure [here](#). They may also contact our Customer Service team for help at 1-800-333-2227 (TTY users, call 711). We are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., eastern standard time.