

2023 Preventive Coverage Changes

Frequently Asked Questions

January 2023

What's Changing?

Beginning January 1, 2023, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Western New York and Highmark Blue Shield of Northeastern New York members will see some changes to the list of laboratory services that are classified as preventive.

What Does This Change Mean?

- **Commercial members** – While many preventive screenings or laboratory services will continue to be covered at \$0, some services — that are considered to be diagnostic — will now be covered with a cost-share and deductible when billed with an applicable medical diagnosis.
 - **Note:** If those diagnostic labs are incorrectly ordered by a provider and billed **without** an applicable medical diagnosis code, members may be subject to **full patient responsibility** for the cost of the test. Providers will have the option to resubmit the bill if the correct diagnosis code was not included the first time.
- **Medicare members** – Some services have been added to the preventive schedule or have had a coding change.

Why Are We Doing This?

We are aligning our preventive services list with guidance from the US Preventive Services Task Force, American Academy of Pediatrics' Bright Futures, HRSA Women's Preventive Health guidelines, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

According to these leading agencies, certain diagnostic services should be ordered by a health provider after members have displayed symptoms of a health condition or illness.

Preventive screenings or laboratory services are ordered by a provider to screen for health conditions before a member is displaying symptoms. The tests performed for monitoring of a current diagnosed disease or for new symptoms that need evaluation are **diagnostic in nature**.

They are still covered under the medical benefits of a member's health plan, but they may have a cost-share, such as a deductible, applied when receiving them.

This change ensures that we are compliant with current health regulations and guidelines.

Are Pap Smears Still Covered?

Preventive screening Pap smears will continue to be covered at \$0.

The changes only relate to diagnostic services, such as a diagnostic Pap smear. This is different and more comprehensive than a screening Pap smear and ordered when members are having symptoms, such as experiencing cervical pain or bleeding.

These services are still covered but have cost-sharing, such as a deductible applied. Highmark recommends members talk to their doctor to determine which test is needed.

What Labs Will be Considered Preventive?

Highmark BCBSWNY and Highmark BSNEY Commercial Members

Preventive (Continue to be covered at \$0)	Diagnostic (Beginning Jan. 1, now covered with cost-share)
<p>Adults</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cholesterol/lipid screening • Glucose for diabetes screening • Hepatitis B screening • Hepatitis C screening • Latent tuberculosis screening • Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, HIV, Syphilis screening • Overweight or obese BMI- hemoglobin A1c or glucose for diabetes screening • Annual screening PAP smear or once every three years screening PAP smear (member choice) and/or HPV screening once every 5 years • PSA Screening <p>Adolescents/Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead screening • Anemia screening hemoglobin and hematocrit • Newborn blood screening and bilirubin • Cholesterol/lipid screening • Hepatitis B screening • Hepatitis C screening • Latent tuberculosis screening • Overweight or obese BMI- hemoglobin A1c or glucose for diabetes screening • Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, HIV, Syphilis screening <p>Pregnancy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urine culture • Rh typing/antibody • Gestational diabetes screening • Syphilis and HIV screening • Hepatitis B screening 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TSH testing • CBC • CMP • Urinalysis • Vitamin D • HCG/pregnancy testing • FOBT (other than colorectal neoplasm screening) • Antibody testing • Hemoglobin A1c (for normal weight) and those with a diagnosis of Diabetes • Diagnostic PAP smear (persons with symptoms) • Vaginal infection tests

Highmark BCBSWNY and Highmark BSNEY Medicare Advantage Members

Preventive (continue to be covered at \$0)	CMS Coding Updates
<p>New codes were added to these services Jan. 1, 2023</p> <p>Alcohol Misuse Screening & Counseling Annual Wellness Bone Mass Measurements Cardiovascular Disease Screening Tests Cervical Cancer Screening Colorectal Cancer Screening Counseling to Prevent Tobacco Use Depression Screening Diabetes Screening Diabetes Self-Management Training Flu Shot & Administration Glaucoma Screening Hepatitis B Screening Hepatitis B Shot & Administration Hepatitis C Screening HIV Screening IBT for Cardiovascular Disease IBT for Obesity Initial Preventive Physical Exam Lung Cancer Screening Mammography Screening Medical Nutrition Therapy Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program Pap Tests Screening Pneumococcal Shot & Administration Prolonged Preventive Services Prostate Cancer Screening STI Screening & HIBC to Prevent STIs Screening Pelvic Exams Ultrasound AAA Screening</p>	<p>Bone mass measurements – code 78359 will no longer be considered preventive</p> <p>Hepatitis C screening – codes 86803 and 86804 will no longer be considered preventive</p>

This information is issued on behalf of Highmark Blue Shield and its affiliated Blue companies, which are independent licensees of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. Highmark Inc. d/b/a Highmark Blue Shield and certain of its affiliated Blue companies serve Blue Shield members in 21 counties in central Pennsylvania and 13 counties in northeastern New York. As a partner in joint operating agreements, Highmark Blue Shield also provides services in conjunction with a separate health plan in southeastern Pennsylvania. Highmark Inc. or certain of its affiliated Blue companies also serve Blue Cross Blue Shield members in 29 counties in western Pennsylvania, 13 counties in northeastern Pennsylvania, the state of West Virginia plus Washington County, Ohio, the state of Delaware, and 8 counties in western New York. All references to Highmark in this document are references to Highmark Inc. d/b/a Highmark Blue Shield and/or to one or more of its affiliated Blue companies.