



HOT TOPIC

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ENHANCEMENTS TO COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING OPTIONS FOR HIGHMARK MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PATIENTS

According to the American Cancer Society, colorectal cancer is the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States. The United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends screening for colorectal cancer starting at age 50 and continuing until age 75.

Highmark is committed to helping our members achieve and maintain good health. As part of that commitment, Highmark has made enhancements to colorectal cancer screening options for Medicare Advantage members, in addition to those mandated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Effective July 1, 2019 (retroactive to Jan. 1, 2019): CPT code 82274 (Blood, Occult by fecal hemoglobin determination immunoassay, qualitative feces, 1-3 simultaneous determinations) has been added to the Highmark Medicare Advantage Preventive Schedule retroactive to Jan. 1, 2019 when billed as a screening with any one of the following ICD-10 codes: Z12.10, Z12.11, or Z12.12. CMS-mandated Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) CPT Codes 82270 and G0328 will continue to be covered once per calendar year per CMS guidelines.

Recently added as of July 1, 2018: A less invasive approach to the routine colonoscopy, CPT code 74263 (Computerized Tomographic [CT] colonography screening, including image post processing) is covered once every five years for patients ages 50 to 75 who are considered average risk when billed with any one of the following ICD-10 codes: Z12.10, Z12.11, Z12.12, Z80.0, Z80.8, Z80.9, or Z83.71.

Annual Highmark FIT Kit Campaign: Highmark uses claims data to identify Medicare Advantage members who have not had colorectal cancer screenings. Highmark will mail a FIT Kit at no cost to identified Medicare Advantage members to the address on file with the health plan. Members and their providers on file will receive a copy of the results. All members with positive results are encouraged to follow up with their healthcare provider for further evaluation and testing. Medicare Advantage members can also request a FIT Kit by calling the customer service number on the back of their health insurance cards.

We encourage you to review the Preventive Health Guidelines available on the Provider Resource Center and discuss with your patients. Click the **EDUCATION/MANUALS** link in the main left menu, then click the **Preventive Health Guidelines** link, and then click any of the links under **2019 Preventive Health Guidelines**.

Highmark appreciates the work you do to care for your patients who are our members.