



Addendum to the Highmark Preventive Health Guidelines and Immunization Schedules

Highmark has updated its current guidelines with the following information from ACIP/CDC and USPSTF that is not reflected in the 2022 Preventive Health Guidelines and Immunization Schedules:

Effective Date	*Preventive Health Guideline	Description
12.1.2021	USPSTF Screening for Colon Cancer	The federal government issued an FAQ detaining the mandated coverage for diagnostic colonoscopy following a positive result by another mandated screening method. The first dollar coverage of the diagnostic colonoscopy will apply per law beginning 6.1.2022 for PA, WV, and DE. The effective date for NY is based on NY state law and is 12.1.2021 with first migrated business for HMK. Eligible colonoscopies must be performed within one year of a claim for a mandated colon cancer screening test
Already a Benefit	Immunizations	Federal Law mandates health plans begin payment for the Covid vaccine apply per law beginning 1.1.2022 once the government funded supply runs out. Health plans already paying the administration fee under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the government funded vaccines approved by the CDC. The PHG will now reflect that Covid vaccines be given per EUA and/or CDC guidelines and on advice of the members physician
Already a Benefit	Immunizations	CDC update immunization schedule – Age 9–16 years living in dengue endemic areas AND have laboratory confirmation of previous dengue infection °3-dose series administered at 0, 6, and 12 months. Endemic areas include Puerto Rico, American Samoa, US Virgin Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. For updated guidance on dengue endemic areas and pre-vaccination laboratory testing see
Noted on 7.1.2022 PS for removal 1.1.2023	Aspirin Use	April 2022 the USPSTF updated by lowering the recommended use of aspirin for preventive of heart disease and stroke to a C recommendation from a previous B recommendation. Only A and B recommendations are mandated by federal law. Notice to members provided in footnote of the preventive schedule (PS) that this benefit will be removed 1.1.2023.

2.1.2022	FAQ Women's Health Mandate Update	<p>Expanded Benefit: Contraception FDA Approved App</p> <p>Explanation: 1.2022 Release of FAQ51 for Women's Health under PPACA directly acknowledges that FDA approved apps in the marketplace for contraception use are covered for plans that have the Women's Health Preventive Services. There is currently one app that is FDA approved in the marketplace – Natural Cycles. The effective date is 2.1.2022 for PA, WV, and DE. The effective date for NY is based on NY state law and is 12.1.2021 with first migrated business for HMK. This reimbursable benefit follows current business process for paper claim submission and each request requires a prescription and receipt of payment submitted with the paper claim for the FDA approved app in order to receive reimbursement.</p>
7.1.2022	Glucose Screening Update for Adults with Morbid Obesity BMI	<p>The USPSTF recommends screening for prediabetes and type 2 diabetes in adults aged 35 to 70 years who have overweight or obesity. Clinicians should offer or refer patients with prediabetes to effective preventive interventions. B Recommendation. Already on the preventive schedule for adults with BMI for overweight or obesity. Expansion to include morbid obesity diagnosis codes.</p>

Key: ACIP (Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices), CDC (Center for Disease Control), USPSTF (United States Preventive Services Task Force)

*Grandfathered plans are health care plans that were established before March 23, 2010, and have not changed their benefit structure. Certain PPACA provisions differ or do not apply to these plans. However, grandfathered employers may opt to cover these benefits.

***Providers should always check eligibility and benefits each time a member presents for service. Provider s may use the NaviNet Eligibility and Benefits function.**