

SPECIAL eBULLETIN

FOR PROFESSIONAL AND FACILITY PROVIDERS

SEPTEMBER 16, 2022

2023 PREVENTIVE COVERAGE CHANGES

Beginning January 1, 2023, Highmark Blue Shield of Northeastern New York members will be covered by Highmark's preventive services schedule, which is determined by the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Bright Futures, Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) Women's Preventive Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) General Immunization Schedule, and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Preventive Schedule.

This means some labs previously considered preventive with a \$0 cost-share for your Highmark Commercial and Medicare Advantage patients will now be subject to your patients' regular cost-shares and deductibles **only when the lab is billed with a medical diagnosis.**

PREVENTIVE LABS

For your Commercial Highmark patients, the following labs will be covered under preventive benefits with a \$0 cost-share January 1, 2023:

Commercial Preventive Labs for Adults

- Cholesterol/lipid screening
- Glucose screening for screening for diabetes
- Hepatitis B screening
- Hepatitis C screening
- Latent tuberculosis screening
- Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, HIV, Syphilis screening
- Overweight or obese BMI - hemoglobin A1c or glucose
- PAP and HPV screening
- PSA Screening

Commercial Preventive Labs for Children/Adolescents

- 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
- Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, HIV, Syphilis screening

Additional Commercial Preventive Labs for Pregnancy

- Urine culture
- Rh typing/antibody
- Gestational diabetes screening
- Syphilis and HIV screening
- Hepatitis B screening

COMMERCIAL DIAGNOSTIC LABS

The following labs will be considered **diagnostic and must include a medical diagnosis code beginning January 1, 2023**. These labs will be subject to your patients' regular cost-share.

Some of these labs may have previously been considered preventive with a \$0 cost-share in 2022 but will no longer be considered preventive in 2023. **Please note:** Labs no longer on the preventive schedule that are billed **without** a medical diagnosis code may be subject to **full patient responsibility**.

Diagnostic lab examples that must include a medical diagnosis code include:

- TSH testing
- CBC
- CMP
- Urinalysis
- Vitamin D
- HCG/pregnancy testing
- FOBT (other than colorectal neoplasm screening)
- Antibody testing
- Hemoglobin A1c (for normal weight)
- Diagnostic PAP smear
- Vaginal infection tests

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE ONLY

For your Highmark Medicare Advantage patients, some services have been added to the preventive schedule or have had a coding change.

The following services that have been **added as a preventive service with a \$0 cost-share** for your Highmark Medicare Advantage include:

- Cervical cancer screening with Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- Colorectal cancer screening (Screening CT virtual colonoscopy and FIT Kit)
- Pelvic exam (annual GYN exam)

The preventive services that have had **a change in coding guidance** include:

- Bone mass measurements – code 78359 will no longer be considered preventive
- Hepatitis C screening – codes 86803 and 86804 will no longer be considered preventive

To review our Preventive Health Guidelines page on the Provider Resource Center, go [here](#).