

Cologuard[®]: An Alternative to Colonoscopy

Frequently Asked Questions

Cologuard is a non-invasive at-home colon cancer screening test that is covered at 100% under the preventive services benefit for eligible Florida Blue members. Eligible members include those who are 50-75 years of age in whom colorectal cancer preventive screening is indicated.

Cologuard is intended for the qualitative detection of colorectal neoplasia-associated DNA markers and for the presence of occult hemoglobin in human stool. The test provides for a 3-year testing schedule (compared to 1-year for FOBT kits). Health care professionals are encouraged to discuss this screening option with patients as part of a regular wellness appointment.

1. Is Cologuard covered for Florida Blue patients?

All Florida Blue members enrolled in Medicare Advantage and non-Medicare plans, who are 50-75 years of age in whom colorectal cancer preventive screening is indicated, are covered for preventive colon cancer screenings. Our member contracts do not exclude or specifically call out Cologuard. The medical coverage guideline which includes information related to Cologuard is located at <http://mcgs.bcbsfl.com/>.

2. Is there any cost (coinsurance or copayment) to the patient for Cologuard?

There is no patient cost if this is billed with a preventive diagnosis which includes ICD-10 codes Z12.11 and Z12.12. For diagnostic testing, there could be a cost to the member.

3. Is a prior authorization required for Cologuard?

There is no prior authorization for Cologuard required for members enrolled in Medicare Advantage or Non-Medicare plans who are 50-75 years of age in whom colorectal cancer preventive screening is indicated.

4. What preparation is needed by my patient?

No preparation is required.

5. Who should bill/submit a claim for the Cologuard test?

Although Cologuard's manufacturer, Exact Sciences, will bill Florida Blue for services rendered for Florida Blue members, the ordering practitioner should report the diagnosis code(s) that best describes the reason for performing the test, regardless of using ICD-10 code Z12.11 or Z12.12.

6. How can I order the Cologuard test for my patient?

A physician must write a Cologuard prescription for their patient. The Cologuard test must be ordered by a health care professional via the **FAX Test Requisition Form** found on the Cologuard website: <http://www.cologuardtest.com/hcp/ordering-cologuard/how-to-order-the-test>, OR through Cologuard's **Web-based Provider Portal** which tracks patient orders, monitors compliance, and receives result reports. A health care professional may also choose to first contact a representative by calling the **Provider Support line at (844) 870-8879**. A representative can walk through the process and explain other details.

7. What are the advantages of contacting a Cologuard representative on the Provider Support Line at (844) 870-8879?

Advantages of connecting with a Cologuard representative include:

- Initial Cologuard education with on-going support
- A walk through of the ordering process for the practice
- Receive an introduction to the provider portal
- Receive an explanation of results reporting
- Opportunity to order additional materials for provider office

8. How will my patient receive their Cologuard test kit?

When Exact Sciences receives your order, they send a collection kit directly to your patient's home via UPS.

9. Once my patient receives the Cologuard test kit, how can they have their questions answered?

Exact Sciences offers a comprehensive outreach program that supports both patients and physicians. They initiate outreach to the patient within 72 hours of receiving the order, starting with a welcome call to let them know what to expect. They also offer 24/7 toll-free access to an Exact Sciences customer support specialist. They also offer translation services if needed. For physicians, the lab provides order status tracking, reducing the need for follow-up from office staff.

10. What should my patient do to complete the Cologuard test?

In the privacy of their home, your patient will collect a single stool sample to enclose in the Cologuard test kit. The patient will return the completed Cologuard test kit to Exact Sciences Labs, within 24 hours of sample collection, via UPS prepaid shipping or pick-up, return postage paid by Exact Sciences. The return sample must be returned to the lab within 72 hours.

11. When are the test results available?

Results are returned to the patient's physician within two weeks.

12. How can the provider order more materials?

To order more materials, call Cologuard's **Provider Support** at **(844) 870-8879** or **Customer Support** at **(844) 870-8870**.

13. How can we receive additional clinical education support?

To receive more support with clinical education, call Cologuard's **Provider Support (844) 870-8879** or access the resources in question 12 below.

14. What resources are available to help patients and medical professionals understand more information about Cologuard?

Patients and health care professionals may find additional information and support relative to Cologuard at the websites below. A video is also available that addresses how a sample is collected.

Helpful Resources for Cologuard:

- For patient oriented information: www.cologuardtest.com
- For health care professionals: www.cologuardtest.com/hcp

Videos:

- *How a sample is collected:*
<http://www.cologuardtest.com/what-is-cologuard/how-cologuard-works>
- *Dr. Elfant on Cologuard*
<http://www.cologuardtest.com/hcp/about-cologuard/performance-effectiveness>
- *How to use Cologuard*
<http://www.cologuardtest.com/current-patients/how-to-use>