

## Ensuring Your BlueMedicare Patients' Colorectal Cancer Screening Care Gaps are Closed

If you performed an occult blood test via a digital exam for your BlueMedicare (Medicare Advantage) patient and they are still showing up in your report as having an open care gap for colorectal cancer screening, it is not in error. Specimens collected via a digital exam do not meet the nationally recommended criteria for colorectal cancer screening. However, there are other screening options that meet the criteria and there is still time available for your patients to close their colorectal cancer screening care gaps by December 31, 2017.

If your patient is averse to having a colonoscopy, please encourage them to select one of the colorectal cancer screening options below.

- **Cologuard® Test** – intended as qualitative detection of colorectal neoplasia – associated DNA markers and for the presence of occult hemoglobin in blood (CPT Code 81528)
  - Screening is good for three years
  - *No prior authorization needed, no cost* for eligible\* BlueMedicare members who are billed under preventive services (ICD -10 Z12.11 or Z12.12) However, ordering practitioners should report the diagnosis code(s) that best describes the reason for performing the test, regardless of whether the code is Z12.11 or Z12.12.
  - Order the Cologuard test for your BlueMedicare patient(s) at: (844) 870-8870 or at <http://www.cologuardtest.com/hcp/ordering-cologuard/how-to-order-the-test>
  - For more information, refer to the Cologuard FAQs [here](#).
  
- **FIT Kit** (Fecal Immunochemical Test) – uses antibodies directed against hemoglobin to detect occult hemoglobin in stool (CPT Codes 82270, 82274)
  - Annual screening
  - *No prior authorization needed, no cost* for eligible\* Medicare Advantage members
  - Provide your BlueMedicare patient with a prescription for a FIT Kit. Your patient can go to any Quest Diagnostics to pick up the kit with directions.

Thank you for reaching out to your BlueMedicare patients with this care gap to encourage them to complete this important screening **prior to December 31**.

\*Eligible members include those age 50-75, in whom colorectal cancer preventive screening is indicated. The medical coverage guideline related to Cologuard is located at <http://mcgs.bcbsfl.com/>.