



An Independent Licensee of the  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

April 2019

## Federal Employee Program

### Encouraging Members to have Colon Cancer Screenings

Your Florida Blue patients insured under the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Federal Employee Plan<sup>®</sup> (FEP) are receiving letters this month from a Florida Blue medical director, encouraging them to complete their colon cancer screening.

Your FEP patients have several colon cancer screening options that are covered under their Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Benefit Plan. These preventive screenings cost \$0 when patients use a preferred in-network doctor. Options include:

- **Colonoscopy** (If polyps are found during the exam, patients may have a copay related to services/procedures.)
- **Cologuard<sup>®</sup>** test
- **Guaiac-based fecal occult blood test** (gFOBT)
- **Fecal immunochemical test** (FIT Kit)

Many people find tests like Cologuard, gFOBT, or FIT kits easier to do than a colonoscopy. However, these tests need to be done more frequently. If the test results are “positive” (if hidden blood is detected), a patient may still need a colonoscopy for further analysis. A colonoscopy scheduled after a “positive” test result will be considered “diagnostic” instead of “preventive.” Your patient may have to pay a deductible, copay or coinsurance for a non-preventive test.

Our medical director is recommending that your FEP patients ask you about this lifesaving screening; about the pros and cons of each test; and how often they should be tested. Thank you in advance for speaking with your patients about the appropriate test for them and encouraging them to complete this screening.

FEP patients may learn more about how these tests are covered by reading the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Service Benefit Plan brochure found [here](https://www.fepblue.org/benefit-plans/benefit-plans-brochures-and-forms) (https://www.fepblue.org/benefit-plans/benefit-plans-brochures-and-forms). They may also contact our Customer Service team for help at 800-333-2227 (TTY users, call 711). We are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Eastern time.