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Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

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Cologuard Screening for BlueMedicare Patients

Simple, In-Home Alternative to Colonoscopy

Florida Blue covers Cologuard[®], a non-invasive at-home colon cancer screening test for eligible BlueMedicareSM patients as per release of new guidelines. The screening is covered at 100% for BlueMedicare patients.

Cologuard, which is now included in the Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS[®]) quality measures for colon cancer screening, is intended for the qualitative detection of colorectal neoplasia associated DNA markers and for the presence of occult hemoglobin in human stool.

ICD-10 Codes to Use for Billing

Please bill using ICD-10 Codes: Z12.11 and Z12.12, as directed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) guidelines.

Additional Cologuard details:

- For individuals 50 and older
- Falls under the CMS preventive screening guidelines
- Zero preparation is required
- Provides for a 3-year testing schedule (compared to 1-year for FOBT kits)
- Considered an option for patients who are resistant to colonoscopy screening
- Most commonly, clinicians would discuss this screening as part of a regular wellness appointment

How it works:

1. Physician writes prescription for Cologuard (not available over the counter)
2. Order submitted to Cologuard and collection kit is mailed directly to patient's home
3. Patient must return sample within 24 hours of collection and be received at the lab within 72 hours (this should be emphasized with patients) using prepaid, preaddressed box
4. Results are returned to patient's physician within 2 weeks

CMS has proposed including Cologuard in the 2018 Medicare Advantage Star Ratings. For more information about Cologuard, visit cologuardtest.com/.