

Patty's Points



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Dear Patty:

Q: What is the recommended age for a colonoscopy?

A: Adults age 50 or older for routine screenings and no age criteria if you are diagnosed as high risk by your physician.

Q: Is there a copay for routine colonoscopies?

A: No, a copay does not apply. This a preventive service under your plan.

Q: Is there a copay for Diagnostic Colonoscopies?

A: No. Diagnostic Colonoscopies are covered 100% of the allowable charges. No copays apply. This includes participating in-network facility charges, surgeon, anesthesiologist, & pathologist fees. (Important: Please advise provider to send specimens to participating lab or pathologist. Otherwise, you may be billed for the charges.)

Q: I scheduled my routine colonoscopy but received a call from the surgery center billing representative that I have an Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) copay for this service. I thought no copay applies to preventive services?

A: Please reach out to me at one of phone numbers above or contact the Florida Blue Customer Service phone number at 1-800-507-9820 and we will contact the surgery center to advise that according to your group plan, colonoscopies are covered 100% of the allowable charges, whether routine or diagnostic.

Q: Is there a copay if I have another surgical procedure, such as an endoscopy with the colonoscopy?

A: Yes, the copay would apply to the endoscopy not to the preventive colonoscopy.

Q: I saw a TV commercial about a cancer screening test called, Cologuard. Is this test covered under our District's health plans and what does it involve?

A: Yes, this test is covered once every three years as a preventive care service for adults age 50 years or older. Cologuard is the first non-invasive colorectal cancer screening test that analyzes both stool DNA and blood biomarkers.

Q: Is there a specific in-network lab that performs these tests? How does the doctor order the test?

A: Yes, Exact Science Laboratories. Your doctor orders the test by prescription only. An order form must be completed. It can be found on the lab website: <http://www.cologuardtest.com/hcp>