



# REIMBURSEMENT POLICY STATEMENT

## TrueCare

Policy Name & Number	Date Effective
Colorectal Cancer Screening-TrueCare-PY-1583	07/01/2025
Policy Type	
REIMBURSEMENT	

Reimbursement Policies are intended to provide a general reference regarding billing, coding and documentation guidelines. Coding methodology, regulatory requirements, industry-standard claims editing logic, benefits design, and other factors are considered in developing Reimbursement Policies.

In addition to this policy, reimbursement of services is subject to member benefits and eligibility on the date of service, medical necessity, adherence to plan policies and procedures, claims editing logic, provider contractual agreements, and applicable referral, authorization, notification, and utilization management guidelines. Medically necessary services include, but are not limited to, those health care services or supplies that are proper and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of disease, illness, or injury and without which the patient can be expected to suffer prolonged, increased, or new morbidity, impairment of function, dysfunction of a body organ or part, or significant pain and discomfort. These services meet the standards of good medical practice in the local area, are the lowest cost alternative, and are not provided mainly for the convenience of the member or provider. Medically necessary services also include those services defined in any federal or state coverage mandate, Evidence of Coverage or Certificate of Coverage documents, Medical Policy Statements, Provider Manuals, Member Handbooks, and/or other plan policies and procedures.

This policy does not ensure an authorization or reimbursement of services. Please refer to the plan contract (often referred to as the Evidence of Coverage or Certificate of Coverage) for the service(s) referenced herein. Except as otherwise required by law, if there is a conflict between the Administrative Policy Statement and the plan contract, then the plan contract will be the controlling document used to make the determination. We may use reasonable discretion in interpreting and applying this policy to services provided in a particular case and we may modify this Policy at any time.

According to the rules of Mental Health Parity Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA), coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of a behavioral health disorder will not be subject to any limitations that are less favorable than the limitations that apply to medical conditions as covered under this policy.

### Table of Contents

A. Subject .....	2
B. Background .....	2
C. Definitions.....	2
D. Policy .....	2
E. Conditions of Coverage .....	3
F. Related Policies/Rules .....	3
G. Review/Revision History .....	3
H. References .....	3

**A. Subject****Colorectal Cancer Screening****B. Background**

In the United States, colorectal cancer (CRC) ranks second to lung cancer as a cause of cancer mortality and is the third most commonly occurring cancer in both men and women with approximately 20% higher incidence rates among African Americans. CRC incidence and mortality rates have declined over previous decades driven by changes in risk factors, early detection of cancer through screening, removal of precancerous polyps with colonoscopy, and advances in surgical/treatment approaches.

Appropriate screening reduces colorectal cancer mortality in adults 45 years of age or older. The benefit of the early detection of and intervention for colorectal cancer declines with age, but it is recommended by both the American College of Gastroenterology and the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy that screening begin at 45 years of age. Individuals 75 years of age and older are recommended to work with a primary care physician to determine if continued screening is appropriate and/or recommended.

**C. Definitions**

- **Risk** – Agents or situations known to increase development of a condition. Per American Cancer Society guidelines:
  - **Low** – Certain factors are not present, including a personal or family history of colorectal cancer, certain types of polyps, inflammatory bowel disease (eg, ulcerative colitis, Crohn’s disease), or radiation to abdomen or pelvic area to treat prior cancer, and/or a confirmed or suspected hereditary colorectal cancer syndrome (eg, familial adenomatous polyposis [FAP], or Lynch syndrome).
  - **High or Increased** – Any of the factors seen above are present.
- **Colorectal Cancer Screening** – Testing for early-stage colorectal cancer and precancerous lesions in asymptomatic members with an average risk.
- **Surveillance for Colorectal Cancer** – Close observation for members who are at increased or high risk for colorectal cancer.

**D. Policy****I. Colorectal Cancer Screening**

- A. A review of medical necessity is not required for participating providers.
- B. Benefit coverage is for members at least 45 years of age or less than 45 years of age if at increased risk for colorectal cancer.
- C. Screening for colorectal cancer claims must be submitted with 1 of the following ICD-10 codes:
  - 1. Z12.10 – Encounter for screening for malignant neoplasm of intestinal tract, unspecified
  - 2. Z12.11 – Encounter for screening for malignant neoplasm of colon
  - 3. Z12.12 – Encounter for screening for malignant neoplasm of rectum
  - 4. Z12.13 – Encounter for screening for malignant neoplasm of small intestine
- D. The following are reimbursed:
  - 1. Highly sensitive fecal immunochemical test (FIT) annually
  - 2. Highly sensitive guaiac-based fecal occult blood test (gFOBT) annually

The REIMBURSEMENT Policy Statement detailed above has received due consideration as defined in the REIMBURSEMENT Policy Statement Policy and is approved.

3. Multi-targeted stool DNA test (mt-sDNA) every 1-3 years per USPSTF guidelines
4. Colonoscopy every 10 years
5. CT colonography (virtual colonoscopy) every 5 years
6. Flexible sigmoidoscopy (FSIG) every 5 years
- E. A follow-up colonoscopy is reimbursed as part of the screening process when a non-colonoscopy test is positive.
- F. Screening with plasma or serum markers is NOT covered.

II. Colonoscopy Surveillance for Colorectal Cancer

- A. A review of medical necessity is not required for participating providers.
- B. Surveillance for colorectal cancer claim must be submitted with 1 of the following ICD-10 codes:
  1. Z84.81 – Family history of carrier of genetic disease
  2. Z15.89 – Genetic susceptibility to other disease
  3. Z83.71 – Family history of colonic polyps
  4. Z85.038 – Personal history of other malignant neoplasm of large intestine
  5. Z85.048 – Personal history of other malignant neoplasm of rectum, rectosigmoid junction, and anus
  6. Z80.0 – Family history of malignant neoplasm of digestive organs
  7. Z86.010 – Personal history of colonic polyps
  8. Z92.3 – Personal history of irradiation or radiation therapy
  9. K50 through K52 category codes – Noninfective enteritis and colitis

E. Conditions of Coverage

Reimbursement is dependent on, but not limited to, submitting HCPCS and CPT® codes along with appropriate modifiers. Please refer to the individual fee schedule for appropriate codes.

F. Related Policies/Rules

N/A

G. Review/Revision History

DATE		ACTION
<b>Date Issued</b>	03/26/2025	Approved at Committee
<b>Date Revised</b>		
<b>Date Effective</b>	07/01/2025	
<b>Date Archived</b>		

H. References

1. American Cancer Society guideline for colorectal cancer screening. Revised November 17, 2020. Accessed March 3, 2025. [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)
2. Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Modeling Network Colorectal Cancer Working Group. *Colorectal Cancer Screening: An Updated Decision Analysis for the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force*. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality;

The REIMBURSEMENT Policy Statement detailed above has received due consideration as defined in the REIMBURSEMENT Policy Statement Policy and is approved.

2021. AHRQ Publication No 20-05271-EF-2. Accessed March 3, 2025. [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)
3. Gupta S, Lieberman D, Anderson JC, et al. Recommendations for follow-up after colonoscopy and polypectomy: a consensus update by the US Multi-Society Task Force on Colorectal Cancer. *Gastrointest Endosc.* 2020;91(3):463-485.e5. doi:10.1053/j.gastro.2019.10.026
  4. Qaseem A, Harrod CS, Crandall CJ, et al. Screening for colorectal cancer in asymptomatic average-risk adults: a guidance statement from the American college of physicians (version 2). *Ann Intern Med.* 2023;176(8):1017-1144. doi:10.7326/M23-0779
  5. Screening for colorectal cancer: US Preventive Services Task Force recommendation statement. *JAMA.* 2021;325(19):1965-1977. doi:10.1001/jama.2021.6238
  6. Wilkins T, McMechan D, Talukder A. Colorectal cancer screening and prevention. *Am Fam Physician.* 2018;97(10):658-665. Accessed March 3, 2025. [www.aafp.org](http://www.aafp.org)

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