
Letter Number 2022-07

Date: March 31, 2022

Fee-for-service [6]

Experience-rated HMO [6]

Community-rated HMO [7]

Subject: Colonoscopies

This Carrier Letter provides guidance on coverage of colonoscopies after a positive non-invasive stool-based screening test or direct visualization test (e.g., sigmoidoscopy or CT colonography).

On January 10, 2022, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and the Treasury (collectively, the Departments) issued FAQs [Part 51](#) that, among other things, provides updated guidance on colonoscopies in [Q7 and Q8](#). OPM directs FEHB Carriers to follow the Departments' guidance. Specifically, beginning with contract year 2023, plans must cover and may not impose cost sharing with respect to a colonoscopy conducted after a positive non-invasive stool-based screening test or direct visualization screening test for colorectal cancer for individuals described in the [May 18, 2021 recommendation of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force \(USPSTF\)](#). The USPSTF recommendation states that the follow-up colonoscopy is an integral part of the preventive screening, without which the screening would not be complete. The follow-up colonoscopy after a positive non-invasive stool-based screening test or direct visualization screening test is therefore required to be covered without cost sharing, consistent with the requirements of the [Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act](#) and the Departments' implementing regulations.

If you have any questions, please contact your Health Insurance Specialist.

Sincerely,

Laurie Bodenheimer
Associate Director
Healthcare and Insurance