

May 17, 2021

**Re: LMMA Encourages Preventive Colorectal Screening**

Dear Provider:

Louisiana Managed Medicaid Association (LMMA), in partnership with Healthy Louisiana and its MCOs (Aetna Better Health of Louisiana, AmeriHealth Caritas of Louisiana, Healthy Blue, Louisiana Healthcare Connections, and United Healthcare Community Plan) remind all providers of the important role they play in educating Louisiana Medicaid members about colorectal cancer and in encouraging regular, preventive screenings.

In an effort to increase preventive screenings among our Louisiana Medicaid population, providers are asked to talk frankly with our members and to advise them that getting regular screenings can help prevent colorectal cancer. Additionally, advise members that:

- colorectal cancer can be present without symptoms; this makes regular screening that much more important.
- a colonoscopy is not the only screening method available for cancer detection; some tests can be done in the privacy of their own homes and without prep.
- the American Cancer Society recommends those with no family history of colorectal cancer be screened starting at age 45.
- African Americans are at greater risk of colorectal cancer.

Remind members that they may be eligible for preventive screening tests when administered by an in-network provider:

When?	What?	Where?	Prep?	More Information
Yearly	FIT stool test	Home	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detects hidden blood in stool.</li> <li>• Is risk-free.</li> <li>• Colonoscopy recommended for positive results.</li> </ul>
Every 3 years	Cologuard® stool DNA	Home	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detects cancer and precancerous cells.</li> <li>• Can occasionally return false positive or false negative results.</li> <li>• Colonoscopy recommended for positive results.</li> </ul>
Every 5 years	Flexible sigmoidoscopy	Clinical setting	Special diet and bowel prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doctor looks for and removes polyps in lower rectum and colon.</li> <li>• Quick, safe; requires no sedation.</li> <li>• Can miss small polyps.</li> </ul>
Every 10 years	Colonoscopy	Clinical setting	Special diet and bowel prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doctor looks for and removes polyps in rectum and entire colon.</li> <li>• Sedation likely; member will need someone present to assist them in getting home.</li> <li>• Best test for colorectal cancer prevention.</li> </ul>

Thank you for your cooperation,  
**Healthy Blue**