

Screening vs. Surveillance Colonoscopies Based on Lines of Business (LOBs)¹

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS AT A GLANCE

	Commercial Average-Risk Screening	Commercial High-Risk Screening	Commercial Surveillance	Medicare Average-Risk Screening	Medicare High-Risk Screening
No Family History	●			●	
Family History		●			●
Personal History			●		●

Screening

The process of detecting early stage colorectal cancers and precancerous lesions in asymptomatic people with no prior history of cancer or precancerous lesions (polyps).²

Surveillance

The interval use of colonoscopy in patients with previously detected colorectal cancer or precancerous lesions (polyps), and to detect dysplasia in patients with inflammatory bowel disease affecting the colon.²

	Average-Risk Screening	High-Risk Screening	Surveillance Characteristics	CPT Code/Modifier Information
Commercial	Asymptomatic average-risk individual with no previously diagnosed colorectal cancer, colonic adenomas, or inflammatory bowel disease involving the colon as defined by Commercial LOBs. ¹	Asymptomatic high-risk individual with first-degree relative(s) with a history of colorectal cancer or an advanced adenoma as defined by Commercial LOBs. ¹	<p>The following characteristics meet guidelines for a surveillance colonoscopy as defined by Commercial LOBs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · A personal history of adenomatous polyps or colorectal cancer. · A personal history of inflammatory bowel disease, including Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. <p>Surveillance colonoscopies are not considered screening procedures by Commercial LOBs.</p>	<p>For Commercial, there are no CPT codes designated as a screening. Please see below regarding screening modifier.</p> <p>Screening modifier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · For Commercial, modifier 33 should be used whenever the primary and initial purpose of the colonoscopy is for a screening procedure in accordance with the US Preventative Service Task Force for average-risk screening.
Medicare	Can be performed on individuals not meeting the criteria for being at high risk for developing colorectal cancer as defined by Medicare LOBs. ¹	<p>High-risk individual with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · A close relative (sibling, parent, or child) who has had colorectal cancer or an adenomatous polyp. · A family history of familial adenomatous polyposis. · A family history of hereditary nonpolyposiscolorectal cancer. · A personal history of adenomatous polyps or colorectal cancer. · A personal history of inflammatory bowel disease, including Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. 	<p>The following characteristics meet guidelines for a high-risk screening colonoscopy as defined by Medicare LOBs:¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · A personal history of adenomatous polyps or colorectal cancer. · A personal history of inflammatory bowel disease, including Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. <p>Surveillance colonoscopies are currently interpreted by Medicare as high-risk screenings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · For Medicare, CPT code G-0121 is indicated for average-risk individuals. · For Medicare, CPT code G-0105 is indicated for high-risk individuals. · Non-screening CPT codes appended with a PT modifier indicates the intention of the study is for screening. <p>Screening modifier:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · For Medicare, modifier KX is added for colonoscopies following a positive noninvasive stool-based screening test, and PT is used when polyps are removed during a screening colonoscopy.

1. Please refer to the health plan for specific policies. Current as of 9.06.2023.

2. US Multi-Society Task Force Definition; Colorectal Cancer Screening. Am. J. Gastroenterol. 2017.