

April 2024

Federal Employee Program Encouraging Breast Cancer Screening for Members

One in every eight women will get breast cancer in her lifetime¹. Routine mammograms can find breast changes early before symptoms even develop. When detected early, cancer treatment is typically effective.

Florida Blue patients (women between the ages of 50 and 74) insured under the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Federal Employee Program[®] (FEP) will receive a letter this month encouraging them to screen for breast cancer. In the letter, our medical director recommends your FEP patients contact a primary care physician, an OB/GYN, or a preferred (in-network) mammogram imaging center to schedule a **mammogram**. The member cost share for this diagnostic test is \$0 when completed in-network.

How You Can Help

- Discuss with your patients the importance of breast cancer screening and ensure they are up to date with their annual mammogram.
- Document the screening for breast cancer in the patient's medical record; ensure the **specific date** and **result** of the screening are indicated.
- Document medical and surgical history of the breast, including dates, in the patient's medical record.
- MRIs, ultrasounds, or biopsies **do not count** in the Breast Cancer Screening (BCS) Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS^{®2}) quality measure. Although these procedures may be indicated for evaluating women at higher risk for breast cancer or for diagnostic purposes, they are performed as an adjunct to mammography. They do not count alone towards the HEDIS care gap compliance.
- Submit the appropriate diagnosis and procedure codes for the services rendered.
- Submit claims and encounter data in a timely manner.

Thank you in advance for speaking with your patients about breast cancer screening. If they have questions about their benefits and claims, they can contact our Customer Service team at 1-800-333-2227 (TTY users, call 711), Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m. - noon, ET. Members may also visit [FEPblue.org](https://www.fepblue.org) for more information.

To learn more about the BCS HEDIS quality measure for FEP members, click [here](#). You may also view our [FEP Quick Reference Guide](#) at [FloridaBlue.com](https://www.floridablue.com) (select For Providers, Programs, Federal Employee Program, then FEP Quick Reference Guide).

¹American Cancer Society. (February 2024). Key Statistics for Breast Cancer. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/breast-cancer/about/how-common-is-breast-cancer.html#:~:text=Overall%2C%20the%20average%20risk%20of,will%20never%20have%20the%20disease.>

²HEDIS is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).