

Hello,

Beginning January 1, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts (BCBSMA) will no longer cover the use of deep sleep anesthesia for certain gastrointestinal patients undergoing endoscopic, bronchoscopic, or interventional pain procedures. This applies to all colonoscopies, including those done for colorectal cancer screening.

In the United States, colorectal cancer is the third leading cause of cancer-related deaths in both men and women, and it's the second most common cause of cancer deaths when numbers for men and women are combined. Colorectal cancer is expected to be the leading cause of death in individuals under 50 by 2030.

By adding new barriers to life saving care services, BCBSMA is making access to procedures such as colonoscopies more difficult for you, the patient.

**At this time, we urge you to not delay care.** Rather we **encourage you to reach out to your HR representative or call BCBSMA** at the number on your card and request that they reconsider the proposed anesthesia action **to ensure your choice and comfort is considered and preserved as you receive these procedures in the future.**