

Brief Notes

News for
Brokers and Consultants

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Applies to: All markets

Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey responds to new recommendations on breast cancer screening

Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey issued a statement in response to new guidelines from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force on breast cancer screening published Monday, November 16, 2009, in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Dr. Richard Popiel, Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of Horizon BCBSNJ, issued the following statement:

Horizon BCBSNJ strongly supports and has for many years advocated mammography as the best screening tool for the early detection of breast cancer in order to keep women healthy and save lives. Our current medical policy for breast cancer screening will not change in light of the announcement of new guidelines from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. We will evaluate these new recommendations and seek out expert input before making any decision to change our current medical policy. We will continue to work with organizations we have supported over the years, including the American Cancer Society and Susan G. Komen for the Cure, to ensure our medical policy provides breast cancer screening coverage adequate to keep women healthy.

Currently, our medical policy provides coverage for:

- One baseline mammogram examination for women between ages 35 to 39 years;
- An annual mammogram for women age 40 years and older; and
- In the case of a woman who is under age 40 years and has a family history of breast cancer or other breast cancer risk factors, a mammogram examination at such age and intervals as the physician deems medically necessary.

If you have any questions, please contact your Horizon BCBSNJ sales representative.

Learn about what Horizon BCBSNJ is doing to keep health care affordable at our Health Care Dollars and \$ense microsite,

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Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey

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