



February 3, 2014

Representative Carolyn Tomei
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 4085 (Colonoscopies)

Dear Representative Tomei:

Regence is writing in support of HB 4085, which provides no cost sharing for screening colonoscopies, including removal of polyps if exams and tests are assigned Grade A or B by the US Preventive Services Task Force.

Because it is the right thing to do, Regence has a policy in place to ensure members receive no cost share benefits when a screening colonoscopy includes removal of a polyp. In these instances, Regence pays the colonoscopy claim and associated charges (including anesthesia, prescriptions, and lab). In addition, recent federal guidelines for the Affordable Care Act implemented the same policy.

It is important to recognize that health insurers can only provide this benefit if providers include the screening code on claims. In cases where independent laboratories or other providers are used, the ordering physician must also communicate with them that a screening code should be included.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tom Holt
Director, Government Affairs
Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon