BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois

2025

Adult Wellness Guidelines

Making Preventive Care a Priority



Adult Health – for ages 19 and over

Preventive care is very important for adults. By making good, basic health choices, women and men can boost their health and well-being. Some of these positive choices include:

- Eat a healthy diet
- Get regular exercise
- Don't use tobacco
- Limit alcohol use
- Strive for a healthy weight

Screenings	
Weight	Every visit or at least annually
Body Mass Index (BMI)	Every visit or at least annually
Blood Pressure (BP)	Every visit or at least annually
Cholesterol	Adults 40 to 75 years of age should be screened; or adults 20 to 39 years old who have risk for coronary heart disease. Talk with your health care provider* about the starting and frequency of screening that is best for you.
Colon Cancer Screening	Adults age 45-75 for colorectal cancer using: Guaiac Fecal Occult Blood Test (gFOBT) annually or; Fecal Immunochemical Testing (FIT) annually or; Fecal Immunochemical Testing (FIT)-DNA every 1-3 years or; Flexible sigmoidoscopy every 5 years or; Flexible sigmoidoscopy every 10 years with FIT annually or; Colonoscopy every 10 years or; CT Colonography every 5 years.** The risks and benefits of different screening methods vary. For details about pharmacy benefit coverage, call the number on the back of your member ID card.
Diabetes Screening	Those with high blood pressure should be screened. Those who are overweight or have cardiovascular risk factors should be screened. All others should be screened starting at age 45.**
Hepatitis C (HCV) Screening	Once for adults age 19-79. Most adults need to be screened only once. Persons with continued risk for HCV infection, such as persons who inject drugs, should be screened periodically.
HIV Screening	Adults ages 19 to 65, older adults at increased risk and all pregnant women should be screened. Those 26-45 years of age, should discuss their options with their health care provider.

* A health care provider could be a doctor, primary care provider, physician assistant, nurse practitioner or other health care professional.

** Recommendations may vary. Discuss the start and frequency of screenings with your health care provider, especially if you are at increased risk.

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Adult Health

Men and women are encouraged to get care as needed, make smart choices and make regular screenings a priority. Following a healthy lifestyle and getting recommended preventive care services is a game plan for better overall health.

Discussing recommended preventive care services, screenings and immunizations with your health care provider is a step in the right direction to win at wellness.

Immunizations (Vaccines)	
Tetanus Diphtheria Pertussis (Td/Tdap)	Td or Tdap booster every 10 years.
Influenza (Flu)	Yearly
Human Papillomavirus (HPV)	All Adults age 19-26, 2 or 3 doses depending on age at time of initial vaccination if not already given.** Those 27-45 should discuss options with their health care provider.
Herpes Zoster (Shingles)	Two doses of RZV starting at age 50, or one dose of ZVL at age 60 or over. Discuss your options with your health care provider.*
Hepatitis B (Hep B)	2, 3, or 4 doses depending on vaccine or condition beginning at age 19-59. Discuss your options with your health care provider.*
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	2 doses beginning at age 50
Pneumococcal (Pneumonia)	Ages 65 and over, one dose of PCV 15 followed by PPSV 23 OR one dose of PCV 20. Discuss your options with your health care provider.*
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	1 or 2 doses for adults born in 1957 or later who have no evidence of immunity
COVID-19 Vaccine	The CDC recommends adults get the COVID-19 vaccine. Talk to your health care provider or pharmacist about the COVID-19 vaccine and when you should get it.
Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)	Those aged 60 to 74 at increased risk of severe RSV and everyone 75 and older should receive an RSV shot.
Women's Recommendations	
Mammogram	At least every 2 years for women ages 40 to 74.
Cervical Cancer Screening	Women ages 21 to 65: Pap test every 3 years Another option for ages 30 to 65: Pap test with HPV test every 5 years Women who have had a hysterectomy or are over age 65 may not need a Pap test*
Osteoporosis Screening	Women who are at an increased risk for osteoporosis should be screened at ages 65 and older. Bone measurement testing is recommended for postmenopausal women younger than 65 years who are at increased risk of osteoporosis as determined by a formal clinical risk assessment tool.
Intensive Behavioral Counseling	All sexually active individuals (12 years old and above) who are at increased risk for sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
Men's Recommendations	
Prostate Cancer Screening	Discuss the benefits and risks of screening with your health care provider.**
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm	Have an ultrasound once between ages 65 to 75 if you have ever smoked.
Intensive Behavioral Counseling	All sexually active individuals (12 years old and above) who are at increased risk for sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

The recommendations provided in the table are based on information from organizations such as the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Cancer Society and the United States Preventive Services Task Force. The recommendations are not intended as medical advice nor meant to be a substitute for the individual medical judgment of a health care provider. Please check with your health care provider for individualized advice on the recommendations provided.

Learn more. Additional sources of health information include:

- ahrq.gov/patients-consumers/prevention/index.html
- cancer.org/cancer/risk-prevention/diet-physical-activity.html
- cdc.gov/vaccines/

You probably don't hesitate to ask your health care provider about nutrition and exercise, losing weight and stopping smoking. Other topics for discussion may include:

- Dental health
- Problems with drugs or alcohol
- Sexual behavior and sexually transmitted diseases
- Feelings of depression
- Domestic violence
- Accident/injury prevention
- Preventing falls, especially for ages 65 and over

* Recommendations may vary. Discuss screening options with your health care provider, especially if you are at increased risk.

** Coverage for preventive care services at no cost share may vary depending on your specific benefit plan and use of network providers. For questions, please call the Customer Service number on your member ID card.