

Obama admin. tackles colonoscopy confusion

February 20 2013, by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar

(AP)—The new health law requires that most insurance plans cover all costs for preventive care, including colon cancer screening.

But it didn't turn out to be that simple.

Many patients ended up with a bill when the doctor performing the colonoscopy removed precancerous growths known as polyps. Why the bill? Because a preventive screening had turned into a procedure.

Now the Obama administration is trying to straighten out the confusion: Polyp removal is part of preventive care, and therefore free of charge to the patient.

Health plans also must cover an expensive genetic test for [breast cancer](#) if a woman's doctor orders it. And the lowly aspirin for heart trouble is covered too, if prescribed.

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