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Medicare Provides Coverage for Many Preventive Services and Screenings

Key Words

SE0752, Coverage, Preventive, Services, Screenings

Provider Types Affected

All Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) physicians, providers, suppliers, and other health care professionals, who furnish or provide referrals for and/or file claims for Medicare-covered preventive services and screenings provided to Medicare beneficiaries

Key Points

- Special Edition 0752 conveys no new Medicare policy. It serves as a reminder of the many preventive services and screenings now covered by Medicare. It also provides a list of related provider educational resources developed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to inform FFS health care professionals and their staff about the preventive services and screenings now covered by Medicare.
- Heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, osteoporosis, influenza, pneumonia, and other chronic diseases have a significant impact on the health and well-being of seniors in the United States.
- Medicare now provides coverage for a full range of preventive services and screenings that can help seniors and other people with Medicare stay healthy, detect disease early, and manage conditions to reduce complications.
- Preventive services and screenings covered by Medicare include the following (**subject to certain eligibility and other limitations**):
 - Adult Immunizations
 - Influenza
 - Pneumococcal
 - Hepatitis B
 - Bone Mass Measurements
 - Cancer Screenings

- Breast (mammogram and clinical breast exam)
- Cervical & Vaginal (Pap test & pelvic exam)
- Colorectal
- Prostate
- Cardiovascular Disease Screening
- Diabetes Screening
- Diabetes Self-Management Training
- Diabetes Supplies
- Medical Nutrition Therapy (beneficiaries diagnosed with diabetes or renal disease)
- Glaucoma Screening
- Initial Preventive Physical Exam (IPPE) (“Welcome to Medicare” Physical Exam)
- Smoking and Tobacco-Use Cessation Counseling Services
- Ultrasound Screening for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms

Help in Spreading the Word

- CMS recognizes the crucial role that health care professionals play in promoting, providing, and educating Medicare patients about potentially life saving preventive services and screenings.
- While Medicare now helps to pay for more preventive benefits than ever before, many Medicare beneficiaries are not yet taking full advantage of them, leaving significant gaps in their preventive health program.
- Statistics show that while Medicare beneficiaries visit their physician on an average of six or more times a year, many of them are not aware of their risk for disease, or even that they may already have a condition that preventive services are intended to detect.
- As health care professionals, providers can help their patients with Medicare understand the importance of disease prevention, early detection, and lifestyle modifications that support a healthier life.
- CMS hopes that providers will join with them in spreading the word about preventive health care by educating their patients about their risk for disease.
- Providers should talk with them about the importance of preventive health care, early detection, and the preventive services covered by Medicare that are right for them. Providers should encourage utilization of these benefits when appropriate.
- As people with Medicare increase their knowledge of their risk for disease and understand the benefits of early detection and disease prevention, they will be better prepared to take full advantage of the preventive benefits covered by Medicare.

Educational Products and Informational Resources for Health Care Professionals

- CMS has developed a variety of educational products to:

- Help increase providers' awareness of Medicare's coverage of disease prevention and early detection;
- Provide providers with information and tools to help them communicate with their Medicare patients about these potentially life saving benefits for which they may be eligible; and
- Give providers resources to help them effectively file claims for these services.
- These provider education products may be ordered (free of charge) from the CMS Medicare Learning Network (MLN).
- All print products are available as downloadable PDF files and may be viewed online, reprinted, and redistributed as needed.
- Some print products may only be available as a downloadable PDF file. To order MLN products, providers may visit the MLN Product Ordering page at http://cms.meridianksi.com/kc/main/kc_frame.asp?kc_ident=kc0001&loc=5 on the CMS website.

Note: The following educational products have been developed by CMS to be used by Medicare FFS health care professionals and their staff and **are not** intended for distribution to Medicare beneficiaries.

Bookmark

Medicare Preventive Services Bookmark

- This bookmark (<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/medprevsrvcesbkmrk.pdf>) lists the preventive services and screenings covered by Medicare and serves as a handy reminder to health care professionals and their staff about the many preventive benefits covered by Medicare.
- Appropriate for use as a give away at conferences and other provider/supplier related education and outreach events.
- It is available in print or as a downloadable PDF file.

Brochures

The Medicare Preventive Services Brochure Series for Physicians, Providers, Suppliers, and Other Health Care Professionals

- This series of seven tri-fold brochures provides an overview of Medicare's coverage of preventive services and screenings. They are available in print and as downloadable PDF files:
 - Adult Immunizations (influenza, pneumococcal, and hepatitis B) available at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/adult_immunization.pdf;
 - Bone Mass Measurements available at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/bone_mass.pdf;
 - Cancer Screenings (colorectal, prostate, and breast cancer screenings, and pap tests and pelvic examinations) available at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/cancer_screening.pdf;
 - **Diabetes-Related Services** (diabetes screening tests, diabetes self-management training, medical nutrition therapy, and supplies and other covered services for beneficiaries with diabetes) available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/DiabetesSvcs.pdf>;

- **Expanded Benefits** (IPPE, ultrasound screening for abdominal aortic aneurysms, and cardiovascular screening blood tests) available at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/expanded_benefits.pdf;
- **Glaucoma Screening** available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/Glaucoma.pdf>; and
- **Smoking and Tobacco-Use Cessation Counseling Services** available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/smoking.pdf> on the CMS website.

Guides

The Guide to Medicare Preventive Services for Physicians, Providers, Suppliers, and Other Health Care Professionals, 2nd Edition

- This updated comprehensive guide (http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/mps_guide_web-061305.pdf) for Medicare FFS providers/suppliers and their staff provides information on coverage, coding, billing, and reimbursement guidelines for preventive services and screenings covered by Medicare.
- It is available as a downloadable PDF file.

Quick Reference Information Charts

Medicare Preventive Services

- This two-sided laminated chart (http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/MPS_QuickReferenceChart_1.pdf) gives Medicare FFS physicians, providers, suppliers, and other health care professionals a quick reference to Medicare's preventive services and screenings, identifies coding requirements, eligibility, frequency parameters, and copayment/coinsurance and deductible information for each benefit.
- It is available as a downloadable PDF file.

Medicare Immunization Billing

- This two-sided laminated chart (http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/gr_immun_bill.pdf) provides Medicare FFS physicians, providers, suppliers, and other health care professionals with quick information to assist with filing claims for the influenza, pneumococcal, and hepatitis B vaccines and their administration.
- It is available as a downloadable PDF file.

The ABCs of Providing the Initial Preventive Physical Examination

- This two-sided laminated chart (http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/MPS_QRI_IPPE001a.pdf) can be used by Medicare FFS physicians and qualified non-physician practitioners as a guide when providing the IPPE.
- This handy tool identifies the components and elements of the IPPE, and provides eligibility requirements, procedure codes to use when filing claims, FAQs, suggestions for preparing patients for the IPPE, and lists references for additional information.
- It is available in print and as a downloadable PDF file.

Video Program**An Overview of Medicare Preventive Services for Physicians, Providers, Suppliers, and Other Health Care Professionals**

- This educational video program provides health care professionals and their staff with an overview of preventive services and screenings covered by Medicare.
- This educational video has been approved for .1 IACET* CEU for successful completion.
- This video program can be ordered, free of charge, through the MLN Product Ordering web page at http://cms.meridianksi.com/kc/main/kc_frame.asp?kc_ident=kc0001&loc=5 on the CMS website.

Web-Based Training Courses**Medicare Preventive Services Series Web-Based Training (WBT) Course**

- This series of three WBT courses has been designed to help FFS providers/suppliers and their staff understand Medicare's coverage and billing guidelines for preventive services and screenings covered by Medicare. To register, to take these WBT courses, free of charge, providers may visit the MLN Product Ordering Page at http://cms.meridianksi.com/kc/main/kc_frame.asp?kc_ident=kc0001&loc=5 on the CMS website.

1. Medicare Preventive Services Series: Part 1 Adult Immunizations Web-Based Training (WBT) Course

- This WBT course contains four learning modules that provide information about Medicare's coverage of influenza, pneumococcal, and hepatitis B vaccines and their administration. Information is also included about mass immunizers, roster billing, and centralized billing.
- This course was updated September 2007 and has been approved for .1 IACET* CEU for successful completion.

2. Medicare Preventive Services Series: Part 2 Women's Health Web-Based Training (WBT) Course

- This WBT course contains five learning modules that provide information about Medicare's coverage of mammography services, pap tests, pelvic exams, colorectal cancer screenings, and bone mass measurements.
- This course was updated October 2007 and has been approved for .2 IACET* CEUs for successful completion.

3. Medicare Preventive Services Series: Part 3 Expanded Benefits Web-Based Training (WBT) Course

- This WBT course contains seven learning modules that provide information about Medicare's coverage and billing guidelines for the three services added to the Medicare program in 2005, as a result of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003: the initial preventive physical exam (a.k.a. "Welcome to Medicare" physical exam), and diabetes and cardiovascular disease screenings.
- The course also includes information about diabetes self-management training, medical nutrition therapy and diabetes supplies covered by Medicare as well as detailed information on colorectal, prostate, and glaucoma screenings, and bone mass measurement services.

- This course was updated November 2007 and has been approved for .2 IACET* CEUs for successful completion.

Web Page

MLN Preventive Services Educational Products Web Page

- This MLN web page provides descriptions of all MLN preventive services related educational products and resources designed specifically for use by Medicare FFS providers/suppliers.
- PDF files provide product ordering information and links to all downloadable products. This web page is updated as new product information becomes available.
- Providers should bookmark this page for easy access at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/35_PreventiveServices.asp#TopOfPage on the CMS website.

Other Useful Provider Resources

The Medicare Learning Network

- The brand name for official CMS educational products and information for Medicare FFS providers.
- For additional information, providers may visit the Medicare Learning Network's web page at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNGenInfo> on the CMS website.

CMS Prevention Web Pages

- CMS has created preventive services web pages.
- For additional information, providers may visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/home/medicare.asp> and scroll down to the "Prevention" section.

Preventive Benefit Information for Medicare Beneficiaries

- For literature to share with Medicare patients, providers may visit <http://www.medicare.gov> on the Internet.
- Medicare beneficiaries can also obtain information about Medicare preventive benefits at this website or they may call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

**CMS has been reviewed and approved as an Authorized provider by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET), 8405 Greensboro Drive, Suite 800, McLean, VA 22102. The authors of the video program and web-based training course have no conflicts of interest to disclose. The video program and web-based training course were developed without any commercial support.*

Important Links

The related MLN Matters article can be found at

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0752.pdf> on the CMS website.