

**U.S. House and Senate Notification
Monday, June 20, 2011**

To: Congressional Health Staff

**From: Amy Hall
Director, Office of Legislation
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

Re: CMS Campaign to Educate Seniors about New Free Preventive Care Provided by Affordable Care Act

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) today released a new report showing that more than 5 million Americans with traditional Medicare – nearly one in six beneficiaries – have taken advantage of one or more of Medicare’s preventive benefits since the beginning of the year. CMS also launched a nationwide public outreach campaign, including a letter to doctors and a new Public Service Announcement to raise awareness about all of the preventive benefits now covered at no charge to patients, including the new Annual Wellness Visit, under the Affordable Care Act. Medicare’s *Share the News, Share the Health* campaign will run throughout the summer, with online ads and community events around the country starting in July.

The agency also launched a Spanish version of the Medicare website at <http://es.medicare.gov>. In addition, Medicare’s dedicated caregivers’ website “Ask Medicare” (www.Medicare.gov/caregivers) now has a prevention section especially for caregivers. You can find additional information on prevention benefits on line at www.Medicare.gov and at www.healthcare.gov (click on "Learn about Prevention" at the top).

Today’s announcement coincides with Prevention & Wellness Month, as well as last week’s release by the National Prevention Council of the National Prevention Strategy – a plan developed collaboratively across numerous government departments to help increase the number of Americans who are healthy at every stage of life.

If you have any questions, please contact the CMS Office of Legislation. Thank you.