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Medicare Provides Coverage for Many Preventive Services and Screenings

Key Words

SE0630, Preventive, Screenings, Coverage, Educational, Informational, Products, Resources, Brochures, Guides, Chart, Video, Web, Toolkit, MLN

Provider Types Affected

All Medicare fee-for-service physicians, providers, suppliers, and other health care professionals who provide and bill for preventive services and screenings provided to Medicare beneficiaries

Key Points

- Medicare provides coverage for many diseases that are preventable through immunization or amendable through early detection, treatment, and lifestyle changes.
- SE0630, Special Edition MLN Matters article, informs health care professionals about the preventive services and screenings covered by Medicare and highlights the educational and informational products developed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for health care professionals to promote awareness and increase appropriate utilization of these services.
- Medicare provides coverage for the following preventive services and screenings (subject to certain eligibility and other limitations):
 - Adult Immunizations:
 - Influenza (Flu)
 - Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine (PPV)
 - Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)
 - Bone Mass Measurements
 - Cancer Screenings:
 - Breast (Mammography)
 - Cervical & Vaginal (Pap Test & Pelvic Exam)
 - Colorectal

- Prostate
- Cardiovascular Disease Screening
- Diabetes Screening:
 - Self-Management Training
 - Medical Nutrition Therapy
 - Supplies
- Glaucoma Screening
- Initial Preventive Physical Exam (IPPE) (“Welcome to Medicare” Physical Exam)
- Smoking and Tobacco-Use Cessation Counseling Services.
- CMS needs providers’ help to get the word out about the many preventive services and screenings covered by Medicare. Each of these benefits presents an opportunity for health care professionals to help Medicare beneficiaries learn if they have an increased risk of developing certain diseases.
- CMS recognizes the crucial role that health care professionals play in promoting, providing, and educating Medicare patients about preventive services and screenings. As a trusted source, the provider’s recommendation is the most important factor in increasing the use of appropriate preventive services.
- Providers should talk to their Medicare patients about the benefits of preventive medicine, detecting disease earlier when outcomes are best, reducing infectious disease, and improving the quality of their lives.

Educational Products and Informational Resources for Health Care Professionals

- CMS has developed a variety of educational products for health care professionals to:
 - Help increase their awareness of Medicare’s coverage of disease prevention and early detection;
 - Provide them 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.
- Printed products may be ordered, free of charge, from the Medicare Learning Network (MLN). All printed products are available to download and view on line and may be reprinted or redistributed as needed. Some print products are only available as a download and will be annotated as such.
- Products may be ordered free of charge by going to http://cms.meridianksi.com/kc/main/kc_frame.asp?kc_ident=kc0001&loc=5 on the CMS website.
- CMS has developed the following educational resources. Providers may click on the title of the publications to view them online.

Brochures

- ***The Medicare Preventive Services Brochure Series for Physicians, Providers, Suppliers, and Other Health Care Professionals*** - This series of tri-fold brochures provides an overview of Medicare's coverage for preventive services and screenings including the new benefits: diabetes and cardiovascular disease screenings and the initial preventive physical examination (IPPE) (See *Expanded Benefits* brochure).
 - Adult Immunizations: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/adult_immunization.pdf,
 - Bone Mass Measurements: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/bone_mass.pdf,
 - Cancer Screenings: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/cancer_screening.pdf,
 - Expanded Benefits: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/expanded_benefits.pdf,
 - Glaucoma Screening: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/glaucoma.pdf>, and
 - Smoking and Tobacco-Use Cessation Counseling Services: <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** (http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/mps_guide_web-061305.pdf) - This guide provides information on Medicare's preventive benefits including coverage, frequency, risk factors, billing and reimbursement. (May 2005) (See the Errata Sheet for corrections identified since May 2005 printing.)
- **Determining a Medicare Beneficiary's Eligibility for Medicare Preventive Services** (http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/Preventive_Services_Eligibility.pdf) - This guide provides information on interpreting the Medicare beneficiary preventive services "next eligible date" data and is intended to supplement the educational materials already available for the HIQA, HIOH, HUQA, ELGA, ELGB and ELGH eligibility inquiry screens used to access Common Working File (CWF) records. (September 2005: Available in download only) Quick Reference Information Chart
- **Quick Reference Information Chart** - This two-sided laminated chart at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/mps_quickreferencechart_1.pdf gives a quick reference to Medicare's preventive services and screenings, identifying coding requirements, eligibility, frequency parameters, and copayment/coinsurance and deductible information for each benefit. (May 2005; See Errata Sheet for corrections identified since May 2005 printing.)

Web-Based Training Courses

- **Web-Based Training Modules (WBTs)** - Three web-based training courses covering coding, billing, coverage and reimbursement for Medicare preventive services and screenings. (To access these WBT courses, go to the MLN Products webpage at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/>, scroll to the bottom of the page to "Links Inside CMS" and click on "Web-based Training Modules."

Medicare Preventive Services CD ROM

- **Medicare Preventive Services Resources for Physicians, Providers, Suppliers, and Other Health Care Professionals** - This CD ROM contains The Guide to Medicare Preventive Services for Physicians, Providers, Suppliers, and Other Health Care Professionals; six brochures: 1) Expanded Benefits, 2) Glaucoma Screenings, 3) Cancer Screenings, 4) Bone Mass Measurements, 5) Adult Immunizations, and 6) Smoking and Tobacco-Use Cessation Counseling Services; and a Quick Reference Information: Medicare Preventive Services chart.
- These resources are useful for Medicare fee-for-service physicians, providers, suppliers, and other health care professionals that bill Medicare for preventive services. (See Errata Sheets for corrections identified since May 2005 printing of these products.)

Web Page

- MLN Preventive Services Web Page (<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PrevntionGenInfo>) - This Medicare Learning Network (MLN) webpage, for Medicare fee-for-services health care professionals, provides links to all of the provider/supplier-specific preventive services educational and informational products mentioned in this article.

Other Useful Provider Resources

- Prevention Toolkit (<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PrevntionGenInfo/downloads/prevtoolkit2.zip>) - This online toolkit contains resources that you may find useful when talking to your patients about Medicare preventive benefits.
- Immunizations Toolkit (<http://www.medqic.org/nursinghomes>) - This online toolkit contains printable resources that nursing home providers can use to help improve the influenza and pneumococcal immunization rates among their residents, staff, and volunteers.

CMS Prevention Web Pages

- CMS has created individual web pages for each of the preventive services and screenings covered by Medicare. For additional information providers should visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/home/medicare.asp> and scroll down to the Prevention section.

Medicare Learning Network (MLN)

- The Medicare Learning Network (MLN) is the brand name for official CMS educational products and information for Medicare fee-for-service providers.
- For additional information providers should visit the Medicare Learning Network's web page at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNGenInfo> on the CMS website.
- CMS encourages providers to order and use these provider-specific products to:
 - Increase their awareness of preventive services covered by Medicare;
 - Be equipped to talk with their patients about Medicare-covered preventive services and encourage utilization of these potentially life saving benefits; and
 - Help them file preventive services claims more effectively.

Please Note: These products have been developed for providers, the health care professional. Provider-specific products are not meant for distribution to Medicare beneficiaries. See below for where to obtain beneficiary specific information.

Preventive Benefit Information for Medicare Beneficiaries

- Medicare beneficiaries can obtain information about Medicare preventive benefits by going to <http://www.medicare.gov/> and clicking on "Preventive Services."
- They can also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Important Links

The related MLN Matters article can be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/SE0630.pdf> on the CMS website.