

Help Raise Awareness about the Disease that can Take Away Your Patients' Sight — Glaucoma

The month of January has been designated as National Glaucoma Awareness Month. We ask you to please join CMS in promoting increased awareness of glaucoma and the glaucoma screening service covered by Medicare.

Over 2.2 million people have glaucoma, half of whom do not know they have this disease. Today, 120,000 people are blind from glaucoma in the United States. Anyone over age 60 is at a higher risk for glaucoma. You can help protect the vision of your patients who may be at high risk for glaucoma. Please educate your Medicare patients about their risk factors and remind them of the importance of getting an annual glaucoma screening exam covered by Medicare. Through early detection and treatment, we can prevent blindness.

Medicare Coverage:

Medicare provides coverage of an annual glaucoma screening for beneficiaries in at least one of the following high risk groups:

- Individuals with diabetes mellitus
- Individuals with a family history of glaucoma
- African-Americans age 50 and older
- Hispanic-Americans age 65 and older

A Medicare-covered glaucoma screening includes a dilated eye examination with an intraocular pressure (IOP) measurement and direct ophthalmoscopy examination or a slit-lamp biomicroscopic examination.

Educational Resources from the MLN include:

[MLN Glaucoma Screening Brochure](#)

[The MLN Preventive Services Educational Products](#)

For More Information, visit:

[National Eye Institute - National Eye Health Education Program](#)

Thank you for joining CMS in promoting awareness of glaucoma and the glaucoma screening services covered by Medicare.