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Medicare Provides Coverage for Many Preventive Services and Screenings

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.

Provider Action Needed

This article serves as a reminder that we need your help to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries receive the preventive services they need. Become familiar with the preventive services and screenings covered by Medicare. Help the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) spread the news about the many preventive services and screenings covered by Medicare.

Talk with your Medicare patients about preventive services and screenings and encourage use of those services, where appropriate. Order and use the educational products developed by CMS to educate your staff about these benefits. The information found in these products will also help you communicate with your patients about Medicare preventive benefits.

Introduction

Note: At the time this article was first published in 2006, the information reflected Medicare policy correctly. Since then more current information is available and new articles have been published. See the Additional Information section for the updated publications detailing what providers need to know to remain current.

Medicare provides coverage for many diseases that are preventable through immunization or amendable through early detection, treatment,

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and lifestyle changes. This 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 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, and
 - Supplies
- Glaucoma Screening
- Initial Preventive Physical Exam (IPPE)
- Smoking and Tobacco-Use Cessation Counseling Services

CMS needs your 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, your recommendation is the

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most important factor in increasing the use of appropriate preventive services.

Talk to your 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 to:

- Help increase your awareness of Medicare's coverage of disease prevention and early detection;
- Provide you with information and tools to help you communicate with your Medicare patients about these potentially life saving benefits for which they may be eligible; and
- Give you resources to help you effectively file claims.

Print products may be ordered, free of charge, from the Medicare Learning Network (MLN). All print 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 notated as such.

Product Ordering Instructions

To order a product, free of charge, click here: [Order Product](#).

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). The following link gives access to the latest CMS publications and is available at

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/Immunizations/index.html> on the CMS website.

Medicare Preventive Services Products

An array of products is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/PreventiveServices.html> on the CMS website.

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Quick Reference Information Chart

This two-sided laminated chart at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/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.

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 web page at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/WebBasedTraining.html>, scroll to the bottom of the page to “Links Inside CMS” and click on Web-based Training Modules.

Web Page

MLN Preventive Services Web Page (<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/PrevntionGenInfo/index.html> / <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/PrevntionGenInfo/>) - This Medicare Learning Network (MLN) web page, 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

Other useful provider resources include the following:

Immunizations Toolkit

This online toolkit at <http://www.medqic.org/nursinghomes> contains printable resources that nursing home providers can use to help improve the influenza and pneumococcal immunization rates among their residents, staff, and volunteers. It can be found by clicking on the title above.

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 visit the Medicare Learning Network’s web page at

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<http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNGenInfo/index.html/MLNGenInfo> on the CMS website.

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.”

You may also want to review the following related MLN Matters® articles:

- MM7012 (<http://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/medicare-learning-network-mln/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/MM7012.pdf>) alerts providers that under Section 4104 of the Affordable Care Act, beginning January 1, 2011, Medicare will provide 100 percent payment for the IPPE, the Annual Wellness Visit, and for those preventive services that are identified with a grade of A or B by the United States Preventive Services Task Force for any indication or population and are appropriate for the individual;
- MM7208 (<http://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/medicare-learning-network-mln/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/MM7208.pdf>) advises that under the Affordable Care Act, effective January 1, 2011, coinsurance and deductible are not applicable for the Initial Preventive Physical Examination (IPPE), the annual wellness visit, and other Medicare covered preventive services provided by RHCs; and
- MM7079 (<http://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/medicare-learning-network-mln/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/MM7079.pdf>) informs providers that under Section 4104 of the Affordable Care Act, beginning January 1, 2011, Medicare will pay for an Annual Wellness Visit (AWV), including Personalized Prevention Plan Services (PPPS) for Medicare beneficiaries.
- MM7636 (<http://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/medicare-learning-network-mln/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/MM7636.pdf>) alerts providers that effective November 8, 2011, Medicare will cover intensive behavioral therapy (IBT) for cardiovascular disease as a new preventative service, including one face-to-face cardiovascular disease risk reduction visit annually when furnished in a primary care setting. All other information remains the same.

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