



News Flash – Medicare Remit Easy Print (MREP) – Still using Standard Paper Remittance Advices (SPRs)? Did you know that with the new MREP software that is available to you (**for free!**), you can view and print as many or as few claims as needed? With the MREP software, you can navigate and view an Electronic Remittance Advice (ERA) using your personal computer. This is especially helpful when you need to print only one claim from the Remittance Advice (RA) when forwarding a claim to a secondary payer. CMS developed the MREP software to enable you to read and print the HIPAA-compliant ERA, also known as Transaction 835 or “the 835”. Contact your carrier, A/B MAC or DME MAC to find out more about MREP and/or for information on how to receive HIPAA compliant ERAs.

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Medicare Provides Coverage for Many Preventive Services and Screenings

Note: This article was updated on September 5, 2012, to reflect current Web addresses. This article was also revised on February 21, 2012, to add references to MLN Matters® articles that provide updated information on Preventive Services Coverage. That information was added in the Additional Information section below. All other information remains the same.

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

Provider Action Needed

This article conveys no new Medicare policy but serves as a reminder of the many preventive services and screenings now covered by Medicare and 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. CMS needs your help in spreading the word about preventive health

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care and ensuring that people with Medicare take full advantage of preventive benefits covered by Medicare that are appropriate for them.

- Keep this Special Edition *MLN Matters* article and refer to it often.
- Order appropriate provider resources for yourself and your staff.
- Talk with your Medicare patients about their risk factors for disease and benefits of preventive health care, and encourage utilization of appropriate preventive services covered by Medicare for which they may be eligible.

Introduction

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. Yet the reality is, many of these diseases can be prevented and complications can be reduced. 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 now covered by Medicare include:

Medicare Provides Coverage for the Following Preventive Services and Screenings (subject to certain eligibility and other limitations)

Adult Immunizations	Cardiovascular Disease Screening
Influenza (Flu)	Diabetes Screening
Pneumococcal	Diabetes Self-Management Training
Hepatitis B	Diabetes Supplies
Bone Mass Measurements	Medical Nutrition Therapy (beneficiaries diagnosed with diabetes or renal disease)
Cancer Screenings	Glaucoma Screening
Breast (mammogram and clinical breast exam)	Initial Preventive Physical Exam (IPPE) ("Welcome to Medicare" Physical Exam)
Cervical & Vaginal (Pap test & pelvic exam)	Smoking and Tobacco-Use Cessation Counseling Services
Colorectal	Ultrasound Screening for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms (AAA)
Prostate	

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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 a health care professional, you can help your patients with Medicare understand the importance of disease prevention, early detection, and lifestyle modifications that support a healthier life.

CMS hopes that you will join with us in spreading the word about preventive health care by educating your patients about their risk for disease. Talk with them about the importance of preventive health care, early detection, and the preventive services covered by Medicare that are right for them, and 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

As a trusted source, a physician's recommendation is one of the most important factors in increasing the use of preventive services and screenings by people with Medicare. However, we know the discussion can be complicated. Therefore, CMS has developed a variety of educational products to:

- 1) Help increase your awareness of Medicare's coverage of disease prevention and early detection;
- 2) 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
- 3) Give you resources to help you 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, visit the [MLN Product Ordering](http://cms.meridianksi.com/kc/main/kc_frame.asp?kc_ident=kc0001&loc=5) page at http://cms.meridianksi.com/kc/main/kc_frame.asp?kc_ident=kc0001&loc=5 on the Internet.

ATTENTION: 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.

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CD ROM

Medicare Preventive Services Resources CD - This CD Rom contains PDF files of all our Medicare Preventive Services educational products, including The Guide to Medicare Preventive Services for Physicians, Providers, Suppliers, and Other Health Care Professionals, the 3 Quick Reference Information charts, all 7 brochures, and the bookmark. To order MLN products, 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.

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. Available in print and as downloadable PDF files.

- **Adult Immunizations** (influenza, pneumococcal, and hepatitis B) available at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/adult_immunization.pdf;
- **Bone Mass Measurements** available at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/bone_mass.pdf;
- **Cancer Screenings** (colorectal, prostate, and breast cancer screenings, and pap tests and pelvic examinations) available at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/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.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/DiabetesSvcs.pdf>;
- **Expanded Benefits** (initial preventive physical examination (IPPE), ultrasound screening for abdominal aortic aneurysms, and cardiovascular screening blood tests) available at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/expanded_benefits.pdf;
- **Glaucoma Screening** available at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/Glaucoma.pdf> ;
and
- **Smoking and Tobacco-Use Cessation Counseling Services** available at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/smoking.pdf> on the CMS website.

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Guide

The Guide to Medicare Preventive Services for Physicians, Providers, Suppliers, and Other Health Care Professionals, 2nd Edition - This updated comprehensive guide, available at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/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. Available as a downloadable PDF file.

Quick Reference Information Charts

Medicare Preventive Services - This two-sided laminated chart, available at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/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. Available in print or as a downloadable PDF file.

Medicare Immunization Billing - This two-sided laminated chart at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/qr_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. Available in print and as a downloadable PDF file.

The ABCs of Providing the Initial Preventive Physical Examination - This two-sided laminated chart at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/MPS_QRI_IPPE001a.pdf can be used by Medicare FFS physicians and qualified non-physician practitioners as a guide when providing the initial preventive physical examination (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. 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.

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Web-Based Training Courses

Medicare Preventive Services Series Web-Based Training (WBT) Course - This series of three WBT courses has been designed to help fee-for-services 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, visit the MLN Product Ordering Page - http://cms.meridianksi.com/kc/main/kc_frame.asp?kc_ident=kc0001&loc=5 on the CMS website.

- ***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.
- ***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.
- ***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 Medicare Learning Network (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. Bookmark this page for easy access. <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/index.html> on the CMS website.

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Other Useful Provider Resources:

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

CMS Prevention Web Pages - CMS has created preventive services web pages. For additional information, visit <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare.html> and scroll down to the "Prevention" section.

Preventive Benefit Information for Medicare Beneficiaries - For literature to share with your Medicare patients, please 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.

Additional Information

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

- MM7636 (<http://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/medicare-learning-network-mln/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/MM7636.pdf>) alerts providers that effective beginning November 8, 2011, Medicare covers intensive behavioral therapy (IBT) for cardiovascular disease as a new preventive service, including one face-to-face cardiovascular disease risk reduction visit annually when furnished in a primary care setting.
- MM7633 (<http://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/medicare-learning-network-mln/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/MM7633.pdf>) alerts providers that effective beginning October 4, 2011, Medicare covers annual alcohol screening as a new preventive service and, for those that screen positive, up to four brief face-to-face behavioral counseling interventions annually for beneficiaries when furnished in the primary care setting.
- MM7637 (<http://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/medicare-learning-network-mln/mlnmattersarticles/downloads/MM7637.pdf>) alerts providers that effective beginning October 14, 2011, Medicare covers annual depression screening for adults as a new preventive service when furnished in a primary care setting.
- 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;

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- 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.

*The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (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. on the CMS website.

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