

National HIV Testing Day

June 27 is National HIV Testing Day (NHTD). This annual health observance is part of an ongoing effort to combat the growing HIV epidemic. The theme of this year's NHTD is a call for those at risk to *"Take the Test, Take Control"*, as there are powerful reasons for learning one's HIV status.

CMS asks that you join the national effort to draw attention to this growing epidemic and encourage HIV Screening. Urge at-risk Medicare beneficiaries to get tested, and use office visits as an opportunity to help patients understand the dynamics contributing to their risk factors—your support can help further the efforts to decrease the occurrence of HIV/AIDS among Medicare beneficiaries.

Medicare provides coverage of both standard and Food and Drug Administration-approved HIV rapid screening tests as a Medicare Part B benefit, subject to coverage and eligibility requirements.

- For beneficiaries at increased risk for HIV infection per the United States Preventive Task Force (USPSTF) guidelines (described below), Medicare Part B covers one, annual voluntary HIV screening.
- For Medicare beneficiaries that are pregnant, Medicare Part B covers a maximum of three voluntary HIV screenings

Beneficiaries with any known diagnosis of a HIV-related illness are not eligible for this screening test. Eligible Medicare beneficiaries may receive this screening without any cost sharing (no deductible, co-payment, or co-insurance).

The USPSTF guidelines identify the following persons as being at increased risk for HIV infection:

- Men who have sex with men after 1975
- Men and women having unprotected sex with more than one partner
- Past or present injection drug users
- Men and women who exchange sex for money or drugs, or have sex partners who do
- Individuals whose past or present sex partners were HIV-infected, bisexual, or injection drug users
- Persons being treated for sexually transmitted diseases
- Persons with a history of blood transfusion between 1978 and 1985
- Persons who request an HIV test despite reporting no individual risk factors, since this group is likely to include individuals not willing to disclose high-risk behaviors.

Resources from the MLN:

- [The MLN Guide to Medicare Preventive Services](#), Chapter 13
- [The MLN HIV Screening Brochure](#)
- [MLN Matters® Article MM6786, "Screening for HIV"](#)

More Information for Healthcare Professionals:

- [CMS National Coverage Determination \(NCD\) for Screening for HIV](#)
- [US Preventive Services Task Force \(USPSTF\) – Screening for HIV Recommendation Statement](#)
- [Healthcare Reform and HIV/AIDS](#)
- [Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation "Medicaid and HIV/AIDS" Fact Sheet](#)
- [NAPWA National HIV Testing Day](#)

Thank You!