

April is National Minority Health Month

April is National Minority Health Month. This year's theme, *Health Equity Can't Wait. Act Now in Your CommUNITY!* is a call to action and unity for the regions, the state and local offices of minority health, the health departments, and all the organizations and partners involved and invested in reducing health disparities. In general, low-income Americans and racial and ethnic minorities experience disproportionately higher rates of disease, fewer treatment options, and reduced access to care. Medicare now provides coverage for a range of preventive services and screenings that keep our most vulnerable populations from getting certain diseases. And thanks to provisions in the *Affordable Care Act* of 2010, more seniors and others with Medicare can now take advantage of many recommended preventive services and screenings from Medicare participating healthcare providers, without paying the Medicare Part B deductible coinsurance.

Medicare now provides payment for the following preventive services and screenings, subject to certain beneficiary eligibility criteria:

- Annual Wellness Visit Providing Personalized Prevention Plan Services
- Bone Mass Measurement
- Cancer Screenings
 - Breast Cancer (mammography and clinical breast exam)
 - Cervical and Vaginal Cancer (pap test and pelvic exam (includes the clinical breast exam))
 - Colorectal Cancer
 - Fecal Occult Blood Test
 - Flexible Sigmoidoscopy
 - Colonoscopy
 - Barium Enema
- Cardiovascular Disease Screening
- Diabetes Screening
- Diabetes Self-Management Training
- Glaucoma Screening
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Screening
- Immunizations (Seasonal Influenza, Pneumococcal, and Hepatitis B)
- Initial Preventive Physical Examination (IPPE) also known as the "Welcome to Medicare" Preventive Visit (includes a referral for an ultrasound screening for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm for eligible beneficiaries)
- Intensive Behavioral Therapy for Cardiovascular Disease – *Effective 11/8/11*
- Intensive Behavioral Therapy for Obesity – *Effective 11/29/11*
- Medical Nutrition Therapy (for beneficiaries with diabetes or renal disease)
- Prostate (PSA blood test and Digital Rectal Exam)
- Screening and Behavioral Counseling Interventions in Primary Care to Reduce Alcohol Misuse – *Effective 10/14/11*
- Screening for Depression in Adults – *Effective 10/14/11*
- Screening for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and High-Intensity Behavioral Counseling (HIBC) to prevent STIs – *Effective 11/8/11*
- Tobacco-Use Cessation Counseling

For More Information:

- [CMS Prevention website](#)
- [Medicare Learning Network® \(MLN\) Preventive Services Educational Products](#)
- [Quick Reference Information: Medicare Preventive Services](#)
- [Medicare Coverage Database](#)
- [CMS National Provider Calls and Events](#)
- [The Office of Minority Health website](#)

Together we can help to eliminate health disparities and achieve optimal health for all racial and ethnic groups.