

March 22nd is American Diabetes Alert Day. Please join with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) during American Diabetes Alert Day to help inform seniors and other people with Medicare about the seriousness of diabetes. Currently, 25.8 million Americans are living with diabetes and an additional 79 million (or one in three American adults) are at risk for developing type 2 diabetes. If left undiagnosed and untreated, diabetes may increase the risk for complications such as heart disease, stroke, blindness, kidney damage, amputations, and death related to pneumonia and flu.

Medicare Coverage:

Medicare provides coverage of the following diabetes-related services for qualified Medicare beneficiaries:

- Diabetes screening tests
- Diabetes self-management training (DSMT)
- Diabetes supplies
- Dilated eye exam (for diabetic retinopathy)
- Foot care
- Glaucoma screening
- Hemoglobin A1c tests
- Influenza and pneumococcal immunizations
- Medical nutrition therapy (MNT)

What Can You Do?

As a health care professional who provides services to seniors and other people with Medicare, CMS needs your help to ensure that all eligible Medicare beneficiaries take advantage of the diabetes screening tests as well as all of the other diabetes-related services they may be eligible to receive.

For More Information:

- Diabetes-Related Services Brochure – This brochure provides Medicare fee-for-service providers with an overview of Medicare-covered diabetes screening tests, DSMT, MNT, supplies and other services for Medicare beneficiaries.
<http://www.CMS.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/DiabetesSvcs.pdf>
- Quick Reference Information: Medicare Preventive Services – This chart provides coverage and coding information on Medicare-covered preventive services, including diabetes-related services.
http://www.CMS.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/MPS_QuickReferenceChart_1.pdf
- The Guide to Medicare Preventive Services for Physicians, Providers, Suppliers, and Other Health Care Professionals – This comprehensive resource provides coverage and coding information on the array of Medicare-covered preventive services and screenings, including diabetes-related services.
http://www.CMS.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/mps_guide_web-061305.pdf
- The CMS Prevention Website – Provides healthcare providers with information on Medicare’s coverage of diabetes-related services and screening tests.
<http://www.CMS.gov/home/Medicare.asp>
- National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) – NDEP is a partnership of the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and more than 200 public and private organizations. NDEP has a number of resources including PowerPoint slides; factsheets; PSAs for print, television, and radio; logos; feature articles; and web banners.
<http://www.YourDiabetesInfo.org/AlertDay2011>
- American Diabetes Alert Day – Visit the American Diabetes Association’s website at <http://www.Diabetes.org/in-my-community/programs/alert-day> to learn more about American Diabetes Alert Day.

Thank you.