

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is asking the provider community to keep their patients with Medicare healthy by encouraging them to take advantage of Medicare-covered screening mammograms.

Medicare provides coverage for an annual screening mammogram for all female beneficiaries age 40 or older. Medicare also provides coverage for one baseline mammogram for female beneficiaries between the ages of 35 and 39.

What Can You Do?

As a health care professional who provides care to patients with Medicare, you can help protect the health of your Medicare patients by encouraging them to take advantage of Medicare-covered screenings, including screening mammograms that are appropriate for them.

For More Information

CMS has developed several educational products related to Medicare-covered screening mammograms. They are all available, free of charge, from the Medicare Learning Network®:

- **The MLN Preventive Services Educational Products Web Page** ~ provides descriptions and ordering information for Medicare Learning Network® (MLN) educational products for health care professionals related to Medicare-covered preventive services, including screening mammograms.
http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/35_PreventiveServices.asp
- **The Guide to Medicare Preventive Services for Physicians, Providers, Suppliers, and Other Health Care Professionals** ~ provides coverage and coding information on Medicare-covered preventive services and screenings, including screening mammograms.
http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/mps_guide_web-061305.pdf
- **Quick Reference Information: Medicare Preventive Services** ~ this chart provides coverage and coding information on Medicare-covered preventive services, including screening mammograms.
http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/MPS_QuickReferenceChart_1.pdf
- **The Medicare Preventive Services Series: Part 3 Web-Based-Training (WBT) course**~ this WBT includes lessons on coverage, coding, and billing for Medicare-covered preventive services, including screening mammograms. To access the course, please visit the MLN home page at <http://www.cms.gov/mlngeninfo> on the internet. Scroll down to “Related Links Inside CMS” and click on “Web Based Training (WBT) Modules”.
- **The Cancer Screenings brochure**~ this brochure provides information on coverage for Medicare-covered cancer screenings, including screening mammograms.
http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/cancer_screening.pdf

Please visit the [Medicare Learning Network](#) for more information on these and other Medicare fee-for-service educational products.

For more information on National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, please visit the official website at <http://www.nbcam.org> on the internet.

Thank you for helping CMS improve the health of patients with Medicare by joining in the effort to educate beneficiaries about the importance of taking advantage screening mammograms and other preventive services covered by Medicare.