

## **Raise Awareness in March about Kidney Disease during National Kidney Disease Month and World Kidney Day on March 8th**

Please join CMS during National Kidney Month, and World Kidney Day on Thu Mar 8 in raising awareness about chronic kidney disease. Millions of Americans are at risk for chronic kidney disease and diabetes, and may be able to prevent the need for dialysis and kidney transplantation with early identification and a dedication to healthy life style habits. Early disease detection is key, and the kidney disease-related preventive health services covered by Medicare are a great starting point for beneficiaries who may be at risk.

The incidence of kidney failure, or end stage renal disease (ESRD), is rising fast in America, with more than 546,000 patients currently receiving treatment. Medicare covers a range of related services for eligible Medicare beneficiaries including dialysis, transplant services, diabetes screening tests, Diabetes Self-Management Training, and Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT).

### *What Can You Do?*

- Help protect the health of your Medicare-covered patients by informing them of Medicare-covered kidney disease and diabetes-related preventive services, and encourage their use as appropriate.
- Help them to understand that the early detection and treatment of kidney disease can prevent or delay many associated illnesses and complications.
- Remember, many of these services require an order or referral for coverage by Medicare; please ensure that you provide your Medicare patients with the appropriate documentation so they can receive the services needed to help prevent, treat, and manage kidney disease and its complications.
- Use services like the Initial Preventive Physical Exam, also known as the “Welcome to Medicare” Preventive Visit and the Annual Wellness Visit as opportunities to talk with your Medicare patients about their risk factors for disease, and to provide referrals for appropriate services as determined by these separately billable visits.

### *For More Information for Health Care Professionals:*

- [The Guide to Medicare Preventive Services](#)
  - Initial Preventive Physical Exam, also known as the “Welcome to Medicare” Preventive Visit, see Chapter 1
  - Annual Wellness Visit, see Chapter 4
  - Diabetes-related services, see Chapter 6
- [Medicare Preventive Services Quick Reference Information Chart](#)
- [The Diabetes-Related Services fact sheet](#)
- [End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System fact sheet series](#)
- [National Kidney Foundation website](#)
- [National Kidney Foundation – Chronic Kidney Disease on the Rise](#)
- [National Diabetes Education Program \(NDEP\) Healthcare Professionals Website](#)
- [2011 National Diabetes Fact Sheet](#)

Thank you for joining with CMS to help increase awareness and educate about kidney and diabetes-related preventive health services now covered by Medicare.