

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month and November 18th is the Great American Smokeout. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) asks the provider community to keep their patients with Medicare healthy by encouraging eligible patients to take advantage of Medicare-covered smoking and tobacco-use cessation and counseling to prevent tobacco use services.

Tobacco continues to be the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Smoking can contribute to and exacerbate lung disease, including lung cancer, as well as other diseases, such as heart disease, stroke, hypertension and diabetes.

Medicare provides coverage for smoking and tobacco-use cessation counseling services for certain symptomatic beneficiaries. In addition, effective August 25, 2010, Medicare began covering counseling to prevent tobacco use for certain asymptomatic beneficiaries.

What Can You Do?

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

For More Information

CMS has developed several educational products related to Medicare-covered tobacco-counseling services. 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.
http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/35_PreventiveServices.asp
- **MLN Matters Article MM7133 Counseling to Prevent Tobacco Use** ~ this educational article provides coverage, coding and payment information on counseling to prevent tobacco use for asymptomatic beneficiaries. Available as a downloadable PDF only.
<http://www.cms.gov/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/MM7133.pdf>
- **The Smoking and Tobacco-Use Cessation Counseling Services brochure**~ this brochure provides information on coverage for smoking and tobacco-use cessation counseling services for symptomatic beneficiaries. This product is available in hardcopy or as a downloadable PDF.
<http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/smoking.pdf>
- **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. Available as a downloadable PDF only.
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.
http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/MPS_QuickReferenceChart_1.pdf
- **The Medicare Preventive Services Series: Part 2 Web-Based-Training (WBT) course**~ this WBT includes lessons on coverage, coding, and billing for Medicare-covered preventive services, including smoking and tobacco-use cessation counseling services for symptomatic beneficiaries. 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”.

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

For more information on Lung Cancer Awareness Month, please visit the Lung Cancer Alliance's official page at http://www.lungcanceralliance.org/involved/lcam_month.html on the internet.

For additional information on the Great American Smokeout, please visit the American Cancer Society's official page at <http://www.cancer.org/Healthy/StayAwayfromTobacco/GreatAmericanSmokeout/index> on the internet.