

**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 mammographies.

Screening mammographies help detect breast cancer in women who have no signs or symptoms of the disease. Early detection and treatment of breast cancer can greatly improve patient outcomes.

Medicare provides coverage of 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 women with Medicare, you can help protect the health of your Medicare patients by educating them about their risk factors and reminding them of the importance of getting Medicare-covered screening mammograms.

## **For More Information**

CMS has developed several educational products related to Medicare-covered mammograms:

- The Guide to Medicare Preventive Services for Physicians, Providers, Suppliers, and Other Health Care Professionals ~ provides coverage and coding information on the array of preventive services and screenings that Medicare covers, including screening mammographies.  
[http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/mps\\_guide\\_web-061305.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/mps_guide_web-061305.pdf)
- The MLN Preventive Services Educational Products Web Page ~ provides descriptions and ordering information for Medicare Learning Network (MLN) preventive services educational products, including Medicare-covered mammographies, and resources for health care professionals and their staff. [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/35\\_PreventiveServices.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/35_PreventiveServices.asp)
- Quick Reference Information: Medicare Preventive Services ~ this double-sided chart provides coverage and coding information on Medicare-covered preventive services, including breast cancer screenings. [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/MPS\\_QuickReferenceChart\\_1.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/MPS_QuickReferenceChart_1.pdf)
- Cancer Screenings brochure~ this brochure provides information on coverage for Medicare-covered cancer screenings, including screening mammographies.  
[http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/cancer\\_screening.pdf](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 about National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, please visit the official website at: <http://www.nbcam.org>.

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 of screening mammographies and other preventive services covered by Medicare.