

National Men's Health Week

June 11-17 is National Men's Health Week. The goal of this annual week long observance is to heighten the awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys. In keeping with the goal of National Men's Health Week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) continues its initiative focused on motivating seniors and others with Medicare to make the most of Medicare's preventive services and maintaining healthy lifestyles by asking health care providers to use this week as an opportunity to encourage patients with Medicare to take advantage of preventive services and screenings for which they may be eligible. Medicare pays for a full range of preventive services and screenings such as colorectal and prostate cancer screenings and diabetes and cardiovascular screenings. These screenings can help men with Medicare stay healthy and detect conditions like cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease early when treatment works best. CMS hopes that you will join with us in spreading the word to Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers.

How Can You Help?

CMS recognizes the crucial role that health care professionals play in promoting, providing, and educating Medicare patients about potentially life saving preventive services and screenings. While Medicare pays for more preventive benefits, many men with Medicare don't fully realize that utilizing preventive services and screenings covered by Medicare can help them live longer, better, healthier lives. As a health care professional you can help your patients with Medicare understand the importance of disease prevention, early detection and lifestyle modifications that support a healthier life.

- Talk with your patients with Medicare about their risk for disease and life style modifications that can help reduce risk of disease and complications.
- Educate your patients about the benefits of using preventive services and screenings.
- Discuss with them which Medicare-covered preventive services and screenings are right for them and encourage utilization by providing referrals for appropriate services for which they may be eligible.

Working together we can ensure that men with Medicare receive the preventive services and screenings that are right for them.

For More Information

For more information about Medicare-covered preventive services and screenings, including coverage, coding and billing guidelines, please visit the following CMS website:

- The MLN Preventive Services Educational Products Web Page – This web page is a one-stop shop for provider educational information on coverage, coding, and billing of Medicare-covered preventive benefits. The web page contains a descriptive listing of the products, which include: articles, a guide, brochures, quick reference charts, web-based training courses, a video program, a slide presentation, seasonal flu information, and a bookmark, as well as product ordering information and links to other related CMS and non CMS prevention resources and websites.
http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/35_PreventiveServices.asp#TopOfPage

For products to share with your Medicare patients go to www.medicare.gov

To learn more about National Men's Health Week, please visit <http://www.menshealthweek.org/>

Thank you for joining with CMS in spreading the message about prevention and early detection and ensuring that men and all people with Medicare take full advantage of their preventive benefits.