

2nd June Health Message

National Men's Health Week and Father's Day are over, but that doesn't mean that your prevention awareness messages to your patients should stop! CMS invites you to join with us as we strive to close the prevention gap by spreading the word to your patients that Medicare provides coverage for many preventive services and screenings that are meant to prevent disease from developing, detect disease early, identify risks for disease, reduce serious complications and provide early treatment when outcomes are more favorable.

What Can You Do To Help?

We still need your help to ensure that men with Medicare are aware of the many preventive and screening services covered by Medicare and that they are encouraged to take advantage of the preventive services for which they may be eligible. We ask that you:

- (1) Become familiar with the preventive services for which Medicare provides payment.
- (2) Ensure that your staff is educated about coverage, eligibility, frequency, coding, claim filing and reimbursement requirements for these services.
- (3) Remember to talk with your patients about their risk for disease and the importance and value of prevention, detection, early treatment, and lifestyle modifications.
- (4) Encourage appropriate patient utilization of preventive services for which they may be eligible and provide follow-up on all screening results and continue to promote a prevention-oriented lifestyle.

As men increase their knowledge of their risk for disease and the benefits of prevention, they will be able to make more informed decisions about the use of preventive services, treatment options, and appropriate lifestyle modifications.

For More Information...

CMS has developed a variety of educational products and resources to help health care professionals and their staff become familiar with the coverage of and payment for the array of preventive and screening services covered by Medicare.

- The MLN Preventive Services Educational Products Web Page ~ provides descriptions and ordering information for all provider specific educational products related to preventive services. The page is located at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/35_PreventiveServices.asp#TopOfPage on the CMS website.
- The CMS website also has a prevention website which contains a section on each of the preventive services. Click on <http://www.cms.hhs.gov>, select "Medicare", and scroll down to "Prevention".
- For products to share with your Medicare patients go to www.medicare.gov on the Web. And effective immediately, beneficiaries can find out which regular checkups they may have missed by calling (800) MEDICARE — (800) 633-4227 — or by visiting <http://www.medicare.gov/health/overview.asp>.

We hope you will use these resources to assist you in communicating with your patients about Medicare preventive benefits.

Remember – Men’s health conditions do not simply affect men. Wives, mothers, daughters, and sisters are all impacted, making men’s health a family matter. Encourage your patients to take advantage of Medicare-covered preventive services – it could save their life.

Thank you for joining with CMS to spread the message about prevention, early detection and treatment.