

January is National Glaucoma Awareness Month ~ The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reminds health care professionals that Medicare provides coverage of a comprehensive annual glaucoma screening exam for Medicare beneficiaries at high risk for developing glaucoma.

Medicare Coverage

Medicare provides coverage of an annual glaucoma screening for beneficiaries in at least one of the following high risk groups:

- Individuals with diabetes mellitus;
- Individuals with a family history of glaucoma;
- African-Americans age 50 and older; and
- Hispanic-Americans age 65 and older.

A covered glaucoma screening includes:

- A dilated eye examination with an intraocular pressure (IOP) measurement; and
- A direct ophthalmoscopy examination or a slit-lamp biomicroscopic examination.

What Can You Do?

As a health care professional who provides care to seniors and others with Medicare, you can help protect the vision of your Medicare patients who may be at high risk for glaucoma by educating them about their risk factors and reminding them of the importance of getting an annual glaucoma screening exam.

For More Information

CMS has developed several educational products related to Medicare-covered preventive services, including glaucoma screenings:

- The Glaucoma Screening brochure ~ provides information on risk factors, coverage, and documentation for Medicare-covered Glaucoma screenings. <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/glaucoma.pdf>
- The MLN Preventive Services Educational Products Web Page ~ provides descriptions and ordering information for Medicare Learning Network (MLN) preventive services educational products and resources for health care professionals and their staff, including products related to Medicare-covered glaucoma screening. 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 Medicare-covered glaucoma screenings. http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/MPS_QuickReferenceChart_1.pdf
- The Guide to Medicare Preventive Services for Physicians, Providers, Suppliers, and Other Health Care Professionals ~ This comprehensive resource provides in-depth information about the many preventive services Medicare covers, including glaucoma screenings. http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/mps_guide_web-061305.pdf