

Depression Screening

Promoting Good Health Through Disease Prevention and Detection

5/29/2025

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Objective

Provide an overview of screening for depression

Encourage providers to promote and educate beneficiaries in life-saving preventive services and screenings

Assist providers in billing correctly to avoid claim denials

Today's Presenters

- Provider Outreach and Education Consultants
 - Jeanine Gombos, LPN
 - Andrea Freibauer





Agenda

- [Preventive Services Overview](#)
- [Screening for Depression](#)
- [Resources and References](#)
- [Questions](#)

Preventive Services Overview

Preventive Services Overview

- CMS recognizes the importance of disease prevention, early detection and lifestyle modifications that support the health of Medicare beneficiaries
- Medicare pays for over 30 preventive benefits, including
 - Shots and vaccines
 - Wellness visits
 - Diabetes-related services
 - Tests and screenings
 - Mental health services
 - *This is not an all-inclusive list*

Did You Know

- A beneficiary must be enrolled in Medicare Part B to be covered for any Medicare preventive services



Medicare Preventive Services: Quick Reference Chart

MLN006559 – Medicare Preventive Services



mln
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[Overview](#) [Telehealth Eligible Services](#)

Medicare Preventive Services

× Select a Service		FAQs		Resources		
Alcohol Misuse Screening & Counseling ^T	Annual Wellness Visit ^T	Bone Mass Measurement	Cardiovascular Disease Screening Test	Cervical Cancer Screening	Colorectal Cancer Screening	Counseling to Prevent Tobacco Use ^T
COVID-19 Vaccine & Administration	Depression Screening ^T	Diabetes Screening	Diabetes Self-Management Training ^T	Flu Shot & Administration	Glaucoma Screening	Hepatitis B Screening
Hepatitis B Shot & Administration	Hepatitis C Screening	HIV PrEP ^T	HIV Screening	IBT for Cardiovascular Disease ^T	IBT for Obesity ^T	Initial Preventive Physical Exam
Lung Cancer Screening ^T	Mammography Screening	Medical Nutrition Therapy ^T	Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program	Pneumococcal Shot & Administration	Prolonged Preventive Services ^T	Prostate Cancer Screening
Screening Pap Test	Screening Pelvic Exam	STI Screening & HIV Co-Test ^T	Ultrasound AAA Screening			

[Advance Health Equity](#)

MLN006559 December 2024

How Can Medicare Beneficiaries Keep Track of Their Preventive Services?

- Are You Up-To-Date on Your Medicare Preventive Services checklist

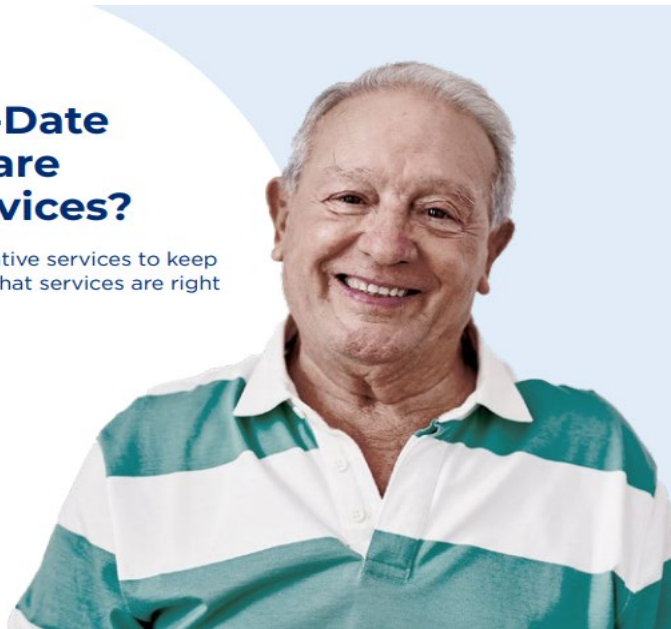
Are You Up-To-Date on Your Medicare Preventive Services?

Medicare pays for many preventive services to keep you healthy. Ask your doctor what services are right for you.

Medicare.gov



Medicare



- ☐ One time "Welcome to Medicare" preventive visit—get this visit within the first 12 months you have Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance)
- ☐ Yearly "Wellness" visit—get this visit 12 months after your "Welcome to Medicare" preventive visit or 12 months after your Part B coverage starts
- ☐ Abdominal aortic aneurysm screenings
- ☐ Alcohol misuse screenings & counseling
- ☐ Bone mass measurements
- ☐ Cardiovascular behavioral therapy
- ☐ Cardiovascular disease screenings (cholesterol, lipids, triglycerides)
- ☐ Cervical & vaginal cancer screenings
- ☐ Colorectal cancer screenings
- ☐ Counseling to prevent tobacco use & tobacco-caused disease
- ☐ COVID-19 vaccines
- ☐ Depression screenings
- ☐ Diabetes screenings
- ☐ Diabetes self-management training
- ☐ Flu shots
- ☐ Glaucoma screenings
- ☐ Hepatitis B shots
- ☐ Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) infection screenings
- ☐ Hepatitis C screenings
- ☐ HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) screenings
- ☐ Lung cancer screenings
- ☐ Mammograms (Breast cancer screenings)
- ☐ Medical nutrition therapy services
- ☐ Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program
- ☐ Obesity behavioral therapy
- ☐ Pneumococcal shots
- ☐ Prostate cancer screenings
- ☐ Sexually transmitted infection screenings & counseling

For more details about Medicare's coverage of preventive services, including your costs in Original Medicare, visit [Medicare.gov/publications](https://www.medicare.gov/publications) to view or print the booklet "Your Guide to Medicare Preventive Services."

You have the right to get Medicare information in an accessible format, like large print, braille, or audio. You also have the right to file a complaint if you feel you've been discriminated against. Visit [Medicare.gov/about-us/accessibility-nondiscrimination-notice](https://www.medicare.gov/about-us/accessibility-nondiscrimination-notice), or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) for more information. TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048.

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Deductible & Coinsurance for Preventive Services

- Medicare deductible and coinsurance waived for many preventive services
- [CR 7012](#), “Waiver of Coinsurance and Deductible for Preventive Services, Section 4104 of Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act, Removal of Barriers to Preventive Services in Medicare”



Screening for Depression

Benefits of Screening for Depression

- Early detection of depression
- Accurate diagnosis, treatment, follow-up
- Avoidance of self-harm
- Family members can take appropriate action for self-education and support strategies

“Among persons older than 65 years, one in six suffers from depression.”

Coverage Criteria

- Beneficiary enrolled in Medicare Part B
- Depression screening covered annually
 - At least 11 full months have passed since last covered screening
- Provided in primary care setting that has staff-assisted depression care supports in place

Coverage Does Not Include

- Treatment options for depression or any diseases, complications or chronic conditions resulting from depression
- Therapeutic interventions such as pharmacotherapy, combination therapy (counseling and medications)
- Other interventions for depression
- Self-help materials
- Telephone calls
- Web-based counseling

Treatment may be covered under other Medicare benefit

MLN[®] Booklet: [Medicare & Mental Health Coverage \(MLN1986542\)](#)

Primary Care Settings

- **Covered POS**

- Physician's offices – POS 11
- OP hospital (including off-campus) – POS 22
- Independent clinic – POS 49
- State or local public health clinic – POS 71
 - Also covered as Medicare telehealth service



- **Does not apply to**

- IP hospital settings
- SNF
- IRF
- Hospice
- Emergency department
- Ambulatory surgery center



Who Can Perform Depression Screening?

- Primary care physician
- Primary care practitioner
 - Clinical staff who can advise physician of screening results and facilitate referrals to mental health treatment
 - NP
 - CNS
 - PA



Documentation Requirements

- Various tools available for screening
 - CMS does not require use of specific screening tool
- Medical records must document all coverage requirements
 - What risk factor(s) is beneficiary exhibiting?
 - Describe type of loss, if any, beneficiary experiencing (i.e. job status, financial difficulty, death of friends or loved ones, etc.)
 - Be certain to include tool used and findings
 - Record time spent for screening

Coding

- HCPCS G0444: Annual depression screening, 5-15 minutes
 - Only one unit payable per year (11 full months must pass since last screening)
- No specific diagnosis code required
- Cannot be billed on same day as IPPE or first AWV
 - Can be billed with subsequent AWV (HCPCS G0439)

Reimbursement

Facility/TOB	Reimbursement
Hospital OP – 13X	OPPS
RHC – 71X	AIR
FQHC – 77X	PPS
CAH Method I - 85X	101% reasonable cost TC
CAH Method II – 85X	101% reasonable cost TC, plus 115% MPFS non-facility rate PC

Billing Instructions for RHC

- Depression screening may be billed as stand-alone visit if no other service furnished on same day
 - HCPCS G0444 with modifier CG
- If performed on same day as another qualified visit
 - HCPCS G0444 without CG modifier
 - Bundled into qualified visit payment
 - Deduct charge for preventive service from total charges listed on qualified visit line (CG modifier line) so that deductible and coinsurance properly calculate
- [Rural Health Clinic \(RHC\) Preventive Services Chart](#)

Billing Instructions for FQHC

- Depression screening may be billed as stand-alone encounter if no other service furnished on same day
 - HCPCS G0466 or G0467 (FQHC payment code)
 - HCPCS G0444 (depression screening)
- If performed on the same day as another qualified encounter, bill as incident-to

What You Should Do Now

- Share this presentation with other internal staff members
- Talk to your patients about the importance of taking advantage of Medicare preventive services
- Update system with correct coding information
- Update any internal procedure to include verifying the patient's eligibility to receive preventive services to avoid costly, time-consuming claim errors

Resources and References

CMS Resources and References

- MLN Educational Tool®: [*MLN006559 - Medicare Preventive Services*](#)
- MLN® Booklet: [*MLN1986542 - Medicare & Mental Health Coverage*](#)
- NCD 210.9 - [*Screening for Depression in Adults*](#)
- [*CMS IOM Publications*](#)
 - 100-02, *Medicare Benefit Policy Manual*, Chapter 15, Section 280, Preventive and Screening Services
 - 100-04, *Medicare Claims Processing Manual*,
 - Chapter 9, Rural Health Clinics/Federally Qualified Health Centers, Section 70 - General Billing Requirements for Preventive Services
 - Chapter 18, Preventive and Screening Services, Section 190 - Screening for Depression in Adults

CMS Resources and References

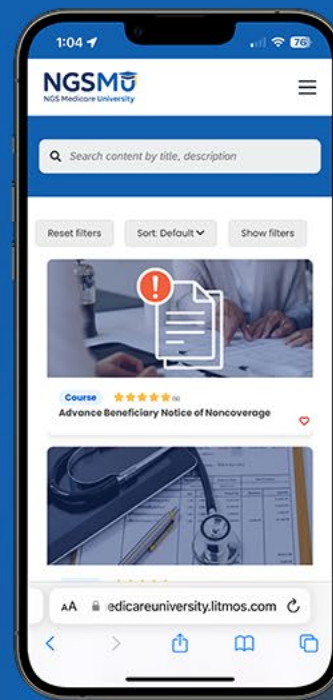
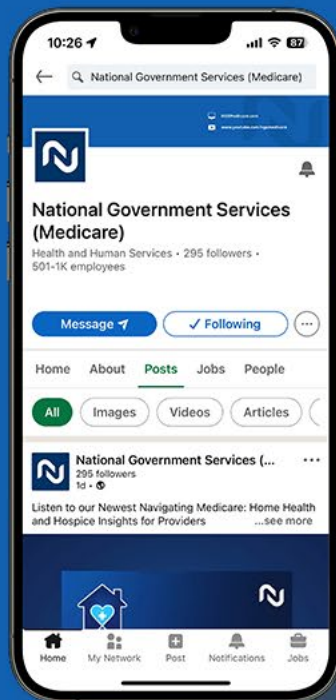
- [Rural Health Clinic \(RHC\) Preventive Services Chart](#)
- [Preventive Services](#)
- [MLN Matters articles](#)
- [MLN Publications & Multimedia](#)
 - Preventive Services Educational Products web page
 - MLN Products Catalog
 - Web-based training
- [MCD Search](#)

NGS Resources and References

- [NGS website](#)
 - Education > Specialties > Preventive Services
 - Links to CMS references
 - [Subscribe for NGS Email Updates](#)
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 - [Events](#)
 - [Provider Contact Center](#)

Resources and References – Beneficiaries

- [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov)
 - [Preventive Services](#)
 - [Are You Up-To-Date on Your Medicare Preventive Services?](#) checklist
- [Medicare & You: Medicare's Preventive Benefits – YouTube](#)



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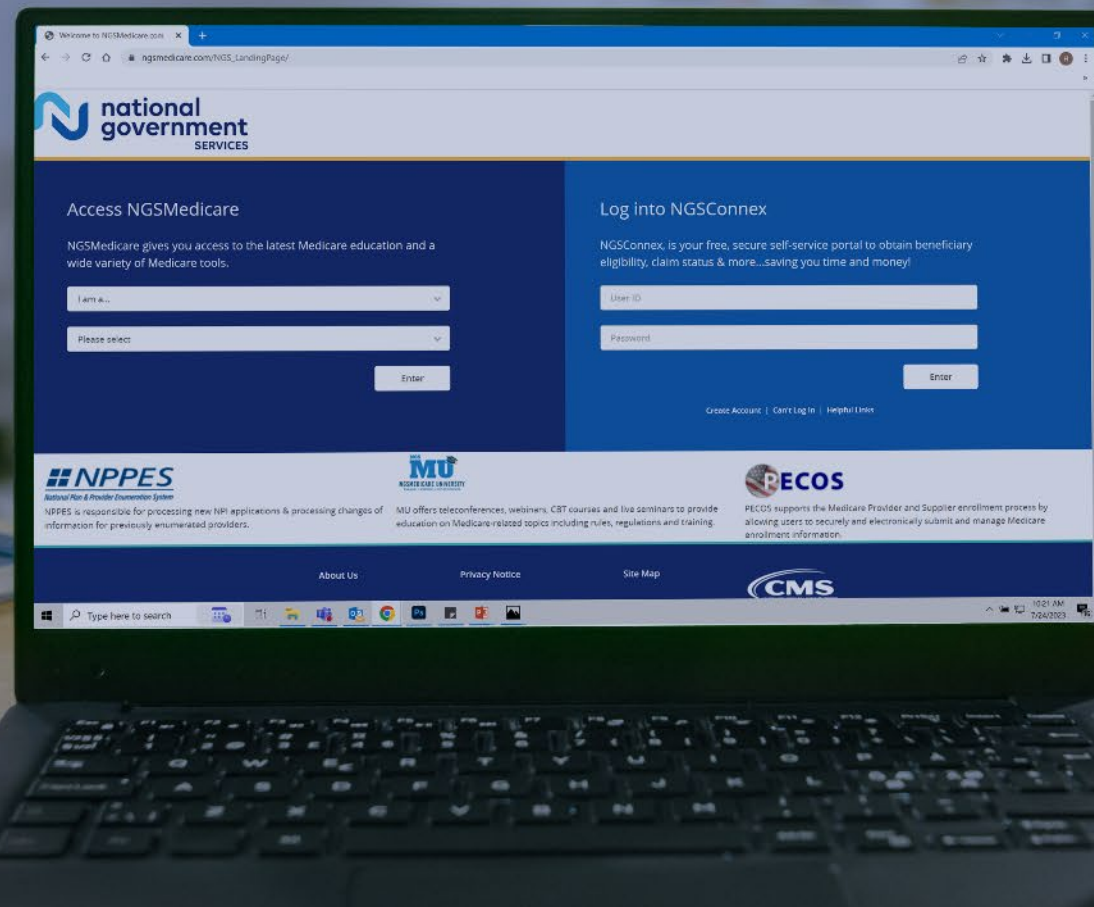


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Questions?

Thank you!