



News Flash – *ICD-10-CM/PCS Myths & Facts* (June 2009), which presents correct information in response to some myths regarding the ICD-10-Clinical Modification/Procedure Coding System, is now available in print format. To place your order, visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNGenInfo/>, scroll down to “Related Links Inside CMS” and select “MLN Product Ordering Page”.

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Value of Family History under the Initial Preventive Physical Exam (IPPE) Benefit

Provider Types Affected

This article is for physicians and providers who submit claims to Medicare Carriers and/or Medicare Administrative Contractors (A/B MACs) for the one-time IPPE provided to Medicare beneficiaries within the first 12 months that an individual is enrolled in Part B.

Provider Action Needed

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) wants to remind providers that the IPPE visit includes a number of important required prevention-related elements, such as (among other things):

1. A review of the individual’s family health history; and
2. Education, counseling, and referral of the individual for other Medicare covered screenings and preventive services. A convenient tri-fold brochure explaining the expanded benefits of the IPPE is available at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/Expanded_Benefits.pdf on the CMS website.

Background

Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.

An individual's family history may be helpful to the physician or other clinician performing the IPPE visit in determining whether an individual is at risk for various forms of cancer and other medical problems. At present, a Medicare beneficiary may qualify for the following covered preventive services based on the individual's family history:

- A one-time ultrasound screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) for an asymptomatic individual, but only if referred by a doctor of medicine or osteopathy or a qualified non-physician practitioner (a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist) as a result of the IPPE visit.
- A colonoscopy screening every two years for an asymptomatic individual considered at high risk for colorectal cancer because he or she has
 - A close relative (sibling, parent, or child) who has had colorectal cancer or an adenomatous polyp;
 - A family history of familial adenomatous polyps; or
 - A family history of hereditary nonpolyposis.
- An annual glaucoma screening examination for an asymptomatic individual, including:
 - A dilated eye examination with an intraocular pressure measurement; and
 - A direct ophthalmoscopy examination, or a slit-lamp biomicroscopic examination.
- One diabetes screening test (fasting blood glucose test or post-glucose challenge tests) per calendar year for an individual who has been previously tested, but not diagnosed with pre-diabetes, or who has never been tested before, after referral from a physician or qualified non-physician practitioner, if the individual has a family history of diabetes and is also 65 years of age or older, is overweight, or meets at least one other risk factor for coverage as described in the applicable Medicare guidelines.
- Two diabetes screening tests per calendar year for an individual who has been diagnosed with pre-diabetes, after referral from a physician or qualified non-physician practitioner, if the individual has a family history of diabetes and is also either 65 years of age or older or is overweight or meets at least one other risk factors for coverage as described in the applicable Medicare guidelines.

Additional Information

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If you have questions, please contact your Medicare carrier and/or A/B MAC at their toll-free number which may be found at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/CallCenterTollNumDirectory.zip> on the CMS website.

Extensive information on the IPPE is available at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/WelcometoMedicareExam/02_Provider%20Resources.asp on the CMS website.

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