
Program Memorandum Intermediaries/Carriers

Department of Health and
Human Services (DHHS)
HEALTH CARE FINANCING
ADMINISTRATION (HCFA)

Transmittal AB-01-14

Date: JANUARY 29, 2001

CHANGE REQUEST 1446

SUBJECT: Notification to Beneficiaries About Cervical Cancer Month and the Benefit of Pap Tests

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) estimates that about 12,800 cases of newly diagnosed invasive cervical cancer will occur in the United States each year and that about 4,600 of the women affected by this disease will die.

Research has shown that many women aged 65 and older have not had a Pap test or a pelvic exam in the past 3 years because they vastly underestimate their risk for cervical cancer or their providers do not recommend them. The fact is that although women aged 65 and older account for 25 percent of cervical cancer cases, they also account for 41 percent of the deaths.

Congress designated January as cervical health month. The attached notices encourage women over 65 to get a screening Pap test. These messages should be printed on MSNs and EOMBs mailed to beneficiaries by carriers and intermediaries during January if possible, and February. This should be done only if printing the messages does not involve a system change.

The effective date for this Program Memorandum (PM) is January 29, 2001.

The implementation date for this PM is January 29, 2001.

These instructions should be implemented within your current operating budget.

This PM may be discarded after March 1, 2002.

If you have any questions, contact Janet Miller at 410-786-2157, or Jmiller2@hcfa.gov.

Attachment

English

January is cervical health month. The Pap test is the most effective way to screen for cervical cancer. Medicare helps pay for screening Pap tests every 3 years. You do not pay the co-insurance or the deductible for the Pap test. You do have to pay the 20% co-payment for the pelvic exam.

Spanish

Enero, representa el mes de la salud del cuello del útero. La prueba de Papanicolao (o la prueba Pap) es la manera más efectiva para detectar el cáncer cervical. Medicare ayuda a pagar las pruebas de Papanicolao cada tres años. No debe pagar el coaseguro ni el deducible para la prueba de Papanicolao. Debe pagar el copago de 20% para el examen pélvico.