



January Fraud Prevention Fact

Happy New Year from the Missouri SMP (Senior Medicare Patrol). We want to make sure that your new year's resolutions include taking full advantage of the preventive benefits provided to you by Medicare.

Medicare covers at least two dozen preventive benefit services, ranging from screenings for heart disease, cancer and diabetes, to shots for the flu, pneumonia or hepatitis. Your Medicare coverage includes a yearly wellness visit to the doctor as well.

Medicare wants to delay or lessen the effects of diseases by early detection and prevention. Some preventive services are provided to men only, and some to women only. Your medical history also might determine how and when Medicare covers a preventive service. Some services are covered once, some annually, and some every few years. If your provider accepts Medicare assignment, you pay nothing for most covered preventive services.

The best way to determine which services you may have covered is to visit your doctor and ask. There also is a very handy little booklet, called "Your Guide to Medicare Preventive Services," that explains the services and provides a checklist. You may get the booklet at www.missourismp.org or medicare.gov. Or you can call us, and we will make sure you get one. As always, report suspected Medicare fraud or abuse to the Missouri Senior Medicare Patrol at (888)515-6565. SMPs are funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, Administration on Aging.