



June 2018 Fraud Prevention Fact

As summer arrives, make sure you keep your health on track. The Missouri SMP (Senior Medicare Patrol) wants you to know that Medicare has you covered for many preventive benefits.

Medicare covers these preventive benefits to help keep you healthy or to find illnesses soon after they develop. The sooner doctors diagnose a health condition, the easier and less expensive the ailment is to treat.

When you consider your preventive benefits, remember that your personal primary health care physician should guide your decisions about which tests and screenings you need. Medicare covers many screenings annually or every two years, but sometimes the coverage depends on your personal health history. Most all of these tests are covered without you having to pay coinsurance or meet a deductible. That means that you should incur no out-of-pocket costs most of the time. Again, check with your personal primary care physician.

Medicare may cover screenings for heart diseases, several types of cancer, depression, diabetes, hepatitis, HIV and osteoporosis – among others. If you need counseling to stop using tobacco or alcohol, Medicare may cover that service. Even flu and pneumonia vaccines are covered. A comprehensive list is available online at medicare.gov.

Ask your doctor about any out-of-pocket costs. Again, the source for these services should be your trusted physician or someone he refers you to – NOT someone who approaches you out of the blue and offers free services. As always, report suspected Medicare fraud to the Missouri SMP at (888) 515-6565.

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