

Medicare-Covered Preventive Services

Starting in 2011, if you have Original Medicare, you pay no coinsurance or deductible for certain preventive services if you see a doctor who participates in Medicare.

However, you may have costs for some of these preventive services if your doctor makes a diagnosis during the service or does additional tests or procedures. For example, if your doctor removes a polyp during a colonoscopy, the colonoscopy will be considered diagnostic and costs may apply.

Medicare covers preventive care whether you are in Original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan (also known as a private health plan). Costs and rules may be different if you are in a Medicare Advantage plan. Call your plan to find out.

Services Original Medicare Covers *Without* a Coinsurance or Deductible Starting in 2011

Care	Service and Frequency
Welcome to Medicare Exam	A one-time examination that includes an electrocardiogram (EKG); and height, weight and blood pressure measurements. Covered if you receive the exam within 12 months of enrollment in Medicare Part B.
Annual Wellness Visit	A yearly visit in which your doctor will update your medical history and current prescriptions; measure your height, weight, blood pressure and body mass index; create a screening schedule for the next 5 to 10 years and screen for cognitive issues.
Breast Cancer Screenings	Mammogram screening* : Once every 12 months for women age 40+; women between ages 35 and 39 can get one baseline mammogram.
	Breast examination : Once every 24 months; if at risk, once every 12 months.
Heart Disease Screening	Blood tests to screen for cholesterol, lipid and triglyceride levels : once every five years.
Osteoporosis Screening	Bone mass measurements : Once every 24 months; more frequently if medically necessary.
Diabetes Screenings	Once every 12 months if you have a family history or are at risk for diabetes. Twice a year if you have been diagnosed with pre-diabetes.
Colon Cancer Screenings	Fecal occult blood test : Once every 12 months for people age 50 and older.
	Colonoscopy : Once every 10 years if you are not at high risk; once every 24 months if you are at high risk.
	Flexible sigmoidoscopy : Once every 48 months.
Vaccinations	Pneumonia shot** : Most people need only one shot in their lifetime.
	Flu shot** : Once a season.
	Hepatitis B shot : Only for people at medium to high risk.
Smoking Cessation	Counseling to stop smoking for people without smoking-related illnesses : Covers two quitting attempts per year; each attempt includes four counseling sessions.
Cervical Cancer Screenings	Pap smear and pelvic examination : Once every 24 months; if at risk, once every 12 months.
Prostate Cancer Screenings	Prostate specific antigen (PSA) test : Once every 12 months for men age 50 or older.
Medical Nutritional Therapy	Therapy to help you learn to eat well so you can better manage your illness. With a doctor's referral, people with diabetes, chronic renal disease, or those who have had a kidney transplant can receive three hours of therapy in the first year and two hours every year thereafter.

* Medicare Advantage plans can not require you to get a referral for mammograms.

** Medicare Advantage plans can not charge you a co-pay for pneumonia or flu shots.

Services Original Medicare Covers *With* Coinsurance or Deductibles

Care	Service and Frequency	What You Pay
Glaucoma Screening	Once every 12 months if you are at high risk. Screening must be supervised by a state-certified eye doctor.	20 percent after you pay your Part B deductible
Colon Cancer Screening	Barium enema: Once every 48 months or every 24 months if you are at high risk.	20 percent before you pay your Part B deductible
Prostate Cancer Screening	Digital rectal exam: Once every 12 months.	20 percent after you pay your Part B deductible

Diabetes supplies, including glucose monitors, test strips and lancets, are covered under Part B with a 20 percent co-pay after you have paid your deductible. Syringes and insulin are covered under Part D.



LOCAL HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH MEDICARE

Louisiana Department of Insurance

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