



2010 HIV Testing Updates

Notice of HIV test coverage for Medicare advantage members:

Effective for claims with dates of service on and after December 8, 2009, CMS determines that the evidence is adequate to conclude that screening for HIV infection is reasonable and necessary for early detection of HIV and is appropriate for individuals entitled to benefits under Part A or enrolled under Part B. Therefore, CMS proposes to cover both standard and FDA approved HIV rapid screening tests for:

National Coverage Indications:

A maximum of one, annual voluntary HIV screening of Medicare beneficiaries at increased risk for HIV infection per USPSTF guidelines as follows:

1. Men who have had sex with men after 1975 Men and women having unprotected sex with multiple [more than one] partners
2. Past or present injection drug users
3. Men and women who exchange sex for money or drugs, or have sex partners who do Individuals whose past or present sex partners were HIV-infected, bisexual or injection
4. drug users
5. Persons being treated for sexually transmitted diseases
6. Persons with a history of blood transfusion between 1978 and 1985
7. Persons who request an HIV test despite reporting no individual risk factors, since this group is likely to include individuals not willing to disclose high-risk behaviors; and,

A maximum of three, voluntary HIV screenings of pregnant Medicare beneficiaries:

1. when the diagnosis of pregnancy is known,
2. during the third trimester, and
3. at labor, if ordered by the woman's clinician .

When is the HIV test not covered? (Nationally Non-Covered Indications):

Effective for claims with dates of service on and after December 8, 2009, Medicare beneficiaries with any known diagnosis of a HIV-related illness are not eligible for this screening test.

Medicare beneficiaries (other than those who are pregnant) who have had a prior HIV screening test within one year are not eligible (11 full months must have elapsed following the month in which the previous test was performed in order for the subsequent test to be covered). Pregnant Medicare beneficiaries who have had three screening tests within their respective term of pregnancy are not eligible (beginning with the date of the first test).

If you have additional questions about your benefits, please call Customer Services at 800-521-0265, M-F, 8am -8pm. TTY users call 800-743-3333.