

September is National Cholesterol Education Month

National Cholesterol Education Month is a good time to help your Medicare patients get their blood cholesterol level checked and take steps to lower it if it is high. High blood cholesterol affects over 65 million Americans. It is a serious condition that can increase your patients' risk for heart disease. Medicare provides coverage of cardiovascular screening blood tests for the early detection of cardiovascular disease or abnormalities associated with an elevated risk of heart disease and stroke. These tests can help determine a beneficiary's cholesterol and other blood lipid levels.

Medicare Coverage:

Medicare provides coverage of cardiovascular screening blood tests for all asymptomatic beneficiaries once every 5 years. The beneficiary must have no apparent signs or symptoms of cardiovascular disease.

Covered screening tests include:

- Total Cholesterol Test
- Cholesterol Test for High-density Lipoproteins
- Triglycerides Test

Coverage of cardiovascular screening blood tests is provided as a Medicare Part B benefit. The beneficiary will pay nothing for the blood tests (there is no coinsurance or copayment and no deductible for this benefit). Encourage your eligible Medicare patients to take advantage of this screening benefit.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The cardiovascular screening benefit covered by Medicare is a standalone billable service separate from the Initial Preventive Physical Examination (also known as the "Welcome to Medicare" preventive visit) and the Annual Wellness Visit.

For More Information:

- [The Guide to Medicare Preventive Services for Healthcare Professionals](#), Chapter 3
- [Medicare Preventive Services Quick Reference Information Chart](#)
- [Expanded Benefits Brochure](#)
- [National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute – National Cholesterol Education Month website](#)
- [Million Hearts Website](#)