

Medicare Coverage Changes

Dear ADVANTAGE Health Solutions' Member,

Medicare continually evaluates the opportunity and benefit for health care services that improve consumer health and assists with the prevention of disease. The following services will be covered.

Screening and counseling to prevent sexually transmitted diseases

Sexually transmitted diseases can often go unrecognized and can cause significant harm including cancer and disability.

Now, members can obtain screening for the most common sexually transmitted diseases. Members can also receive up to 2 individual 20 to 30 minutes face to face counseling sessions annually to prevent sexually transmitted diseases.

Depression Screening

One in six individuals older than 65 experiences depression. Depression occurs in 25% of individuals with long term health problems.

Now, annual screening for depression will be covered when performed in primary care settings. Your health care provider can select from among the many tools to identify if you have signs of depressions.

Intensive Behavioral Therapy for Obesity

More and more Americans are overweight. By being overweight, and an individual's other conditions such as arthritis, Diabetes, or heart disease can cause significantly increased health risk.

Now, members can seek screening for obesity from their health care providers, obtain a nutritional assessment, and participate in intensive behavioral counseling to promote sustained weight loss through continuing diet and exercise.

Counseling for Alcohol Misuse

Alcohol misuse can cause serious health problems for consumers including early onset of Diabetes, disability, or even death.

Now, members including pregnant women may receive services from providers to screen for alcohol misuse and up to four brief face to face counseling sessions a year.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Member Services at 1-800-523-7533 from Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. TTY users may call 1-800-743-3333.