

## ALCOHOL MISUSE SCREENING AND COUNSELING



Hello,

My name is Al Castellanos and I am a licensed insurance agent. Do you know what disease prevention is and why it's important? Well I am here to give you that information. Medicare pays for many preventive services to keep you healthy. These preventive services can find health problems early, when treatment works best, and can keep you from getting certain diseases.

**Alcohol misuse screening and counseling** is one of the preventive services that is covered by Medicare.

### **What is Alcohol misuse?**

Alcohol misuse refers to drinking habits that are unhealthy but do not yet meet the medical requirements for alcohol dependency. Screening and counseling may help identify, manage, and treat alcohol misuse.

### **Eligibility requirements?**

- A woman under age 65 who has more than 3 drinks at a time or 7 drinks per week.
- A man under age 65 who has more than 4 drinks at a time or 14 drinks per week
- An individual age 65+ who has more than 3 drinks at a time or 7 drinks per week.

### **Who's covered?**

Adults with Medicare (including pregnant women) who use alcohol, but don't meet the medical criteria for alcohol dependency.

**How often is it covered?**

Medicare covers one alcohol misuse screening per year. If your primary care doctor or other primary care practitioner determines you're misusing alcohol, you can get up to 4 brief face-to-face counseling sessions per year (if you're competent and alert during counseling). The practitioner must provide the counseling in a primary care setting (like a doctor's office).

**Your cost if you have Original Medicare**

You pay nothing if the doctor accepts assignment.

If you have any questions regarding this exam or any of the other Preventive Service exams covered by Medicare, please contact me at (281) 642-4082 or at

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