

## HEPATITIS B VIRUS (HBV) INFECTION SCREENING



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.

**Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) Infection Screening** is one of the preventive services that is covered by Medicare.

### **What is it?**

Hepatitis B is a serious liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). For some people, hepatitis B infection become chronic, meaning it lasts more than six months. Having chronic hepatitis B increases your risk of developing liver failure, liver cancer or cirrhosis – a condition that permanently scars of the liver.

### **Risk Factors:**

Hepatitis B (HBV) is passed from person to person through blood, semen or other body fluids. Some of these are:

- Sexual Contact
- Sharing of Needles
- Accidental Needle Sticks
- Mother to Child

The virus does not spread by sneezing or coughing.

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

Medicare covers HBV infection screenings if you meet one of these conditions:

- You're at high risk for HBV infection
- You're pregnant

Medicare will only cover HBV infection screenings if they're ordered by a primary care provider.

**How often is it covered?**

HPV infection screenings are covered:

- Annually only for those with continued high risk who don't get a Hepatitis B vaccination.
- For pregnant women:
  - At first prenatal visit for each pregnancy.
  - At the time of delivery for those with new or continued risk factors.
  - At the first prenatal visit for future pregnancies, even if you previously got the Hepatitis B shot or had negative HBV screening results.

**Your cost if you have Original Medicare**

You pay nothing for the screening test 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 [alcastellanos@prinsuco.com](mailto:alcastellanos@prinsuco.com).