

HEPATITIS C SCREENING TEST



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 C Screening test is one of the preventive services that is covered by Medicare.

What is it?

Hepatitis C is a viral infection that causes liver inflammation, sometimes leading to serious liver damage. The hepatitis C virus (HCV) spreads through contaminated blood.

Risk Factors:

Your risk of hepatitis C is increased if you:

- Are a health care worker who has been exposed to infected blood, which may happen if an infected needle pierces your skin.
- Have ever injected or inhaled illicit drugs.
- Have HIV.
- Received a piercing or tattoo in an unclean environment using unsterile equipment.
- Received a blood transfusion or organ transplant before 1992.
- Received hemodialysis treatments for a long period of time.
- Were born to a woman with a hepatitis C infection. Were ever in prison.
- Were born between 1945 and 1965, the age group with the highest incidence of hepatitis C infection.

Who's covered?

You are covered if you meet at least **one** of these conditions:

- You're at high risk because you have a current or past history of illicit injection drug use.
- You're at high risk because you had a blood transfusion before 1992.
- You were born between 1945 – 1965.

How often is it covered?

Medicare covers a one-time Hepatitis C screening test. Medicare also covers a repeat screening yearly for certain people at high risk.

Your cost if you have Original Medicare

You pay nothing for the screening test if it's ordered by a primary care provider who 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.