

## **SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION SCREENINGS 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.

**Sexually Transmitted Infection Screenings and Counseling** is one of the preventive services that is covered by Medicare.

### **What is it?**

A Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) is an infection passed from one person to another person through sexual contact. An infection is when a bacteria, virus, or parasite enters and grows in or on your body. STIs are also called sexually transmitted diseases, or STDs. Some STIs can be cured and some STIs cannot be cured.

### **What are the types of STIs?**

The most common types of STIs are:

- Human Papillomavirus Infection
- Genital Herpes
- Chlamydia
- Gonorrhea
- HIV/AIDS
- Syphilis

**Risk Factors:**

Anyone who is sexually active risks some degree of exposure to a sexually transmitted disease (STD) or a sexually transmitted infection (STI). Factors that may increase that risk include:

- Having unprotected sex
- Having sexual contact with multiple partners
- Having a history of STIs
- Anyone forced to have sexual intercourse or sexual activity
- Misuse of alcohol or use of recreational drugs
- Injecting drugs
- Being young
- Men who request prescriptions for drugs to treat erectile dysfunction

**Who's covered?**

People with Medicare who are pregnant and/or certain people who are at increased risk for an STI when a primary care doctor or other qualified primary care practitioner orders the screening tests and provides counseling.

**How often is it covered?**

Medicare covers these tests once every 12 months or at certain times during pregnancy. Medicare also covers up to 2 individual 20 to 30 minute, face-to-face, high-intensity behavioral counseling sessions each year for sexually active adults at increased risk for STIs. Medicare will only cover these counseling sessions if they're provided by a primary care provider and take place in a primary care setting (like a doctor's office). Counseling conducted in an inpatient setting, like a skilled nursing facility, won't be covered as a preventive service.

**Your cost if you have Original Medicare**

You pay nothing for these services if your primary care doctor or other qualified primary care practitioner 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).