Medicare National Coverage Determination

Topic: Medicare Coverage of Screening for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and Counseling to prevent STIs – Newly Covered Preventive Service.

Decision: Medicare will cover screening for sexually transmitted infections such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis and hepatitis B, as well as counseling for prevention or early detection of illness or disability.

What this means: Medicare will cover screening for certain sexually transmitted infections, and counseling to prevent infections when recommended by your primary care provider. Counseling includes up to two individual 20 to 30 minute in person sessions, annually, to prevent STIs.

Rocky Mountain Health Plans (RMHP) will cover these screenings and behavioral counseling at $0 copay when provided and billed by an RMHP provider. Original Medicare will cover these services when provided by a Medicare provider who is not a contracted RMHP provider at $0 cost-sharing.

Effective date: November 8, 2011