



For Immediate Release

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“Welcome To Medicare” Physical Exam: A New Benefit for New Enrollees

Exam Focuses on Early Disease Detection and Improved Senior Health

Farmington Hills, MI, March 3, 2005 – New Medicare enrollees in Michigan now have additional benefits that will help them live healthier lives, including medical screenings for heart disease and diabetes. According to MPRO, Michigan’s Medicare Quality Improvement Organization, residents who will turn 65 years of age in 2005 and become eligible for Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance), should be aware of this new **“Welcome to Medicare”** physical examination. New beneficiaries are eligible to receive this introductory physical exam (within the first six months of joining Medicare Part B).

The “Welcome to Medicare” physical exam, coupled with an increasingly broad set of preventive benefits including prescription drug coverage, provides beneficiaries with greater access to more prevention-focused benefits than ever before. In addition to screening for heart disease and diabetes, coverage also includes screening for weak bones, glaucoma and cancers of the colon, breast, cervix, and prostate.

“New enrollees should take advantage of these prevention-oriented screenings dedicated to early detection and treatment of disease,” said Jeffrey Deitch, DO, medical director at MPRO. Dr. Deitch is in family practice, specializing in geriatrics. “Too many seniors do not use the services that make it possible to find and treat illnesses before they lead to more serious problems. Preventive screenings also help consumers avoid increases in health care costs.”

The “Welcome to Medicare” physical exam covered under Medicare Part B, will also provide an opportunity for doctors and clinicians to educate seniors on the importance of making healthy lifestyle choices by:

- Eating a diet rich in fruits and vegetables
- Engaging in regular physical activity
- Not smoking

The aim of the “Welcome to Medicare,” physical exam is to significantly improve the health prospects of Medicare beneficiaries as they enter the program and learn about prevention measures.

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To learn more about this new physical exam and about basic preventive screenings covered under Medicare Part B visit online, at www.medicare.gov or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

As a non-profit agency, MPRO is under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), to ensure the quality of health care for Michigan’s Medicare beneficiaries. There are currently 1.4 million Michigan seniors enrolled in Medicare.

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