

Clinical Tidbits

...for Physicians

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Medicare IPPE Requirements and Hearing Screening

The Medicare Initial Preventative Physical Exam (IPPE), also known as the “Welcome to Medicare” exam requires screening for hearing impairment. In the case of a failed screening, a referral is indicated.*

Seven Key Components:

1. Review of the beneficiary’s medical and social history.
2. Review of the beneficiary’s potential risk factors for depression and mood disorders.
3. Review of the beneficiary’s functional ability and level of safety: **hearing impairment**, ADL, falls risk, and home safety.
4. Conduct examination of indicated systems/factors.
5. End-of-Life planning.
6. Education, counseling, and **referral based on the results of the previous five components.**
7. Education, counseling or referral for other preventative services.

Ways to Screen Hearing in the Primary Care Setting:

1. Portable handheld screening device such as the “Audioscope”.
2. Validated hearing questionnaire, such as the HHIE-S, found at the link below:
<http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing/pages/10ways.aspx>
3. Some offices have a sound booth and audiometer.

Referral:

1. Referral directly to Audiology is the most appropriate and cost-effective practice. The VA system has implemented this model for time and cost savings. 90% of patients with hearing loss do **not** have a medically treatable loss, and do not require the services of ENT.**
2. Patients with unilateral, physical, or neurological symptoms are better managed by ENT.*

* https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/MPS_QRI_IPPE001a.pdf

** <http://www.betterhearing.org/hearingpedia/myths-about-hearing-loss>



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