

Title: Decision Memo for Screening for Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) Infection (CAG-00447N)

Decision: The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has determined that the evidence is sufficient to conclude that screening for Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) infection, consistent with the grade A and B recommendations by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF), is reasonable and necessary for the prevention or early detection of an illness or disability.

What this means: Currently, screening for HBV infection is covered only for pregnant women at the first prenatal visit when the diagnosis of pregnancy is known and then rescreening at time of delivery for those with new or continuing risk factors.

Medicare has expanded its coverage and will cover screening for HBV infection when ordered by a primary care physician or practitioner within the context of a primary care setting, and performed by an eligible Medicare provider for beneficiaries who meet either of the following conditions:

- A screening test is covered for asymptomatic, non-pregnant adolescents and adults at high risk for HBV infection. Repeated screening would be appropriate annually only for beneficiaries with continued high risk who do not receive hepatitis B vaccination.
- A screening test at the first prenatal visit is covered for pregnant women and then rescreening at time of delivery for those with new or continuing risk factors. In addition, screening during the first prenatal visit would be appropriate for each pregnancy, regardless of previous hepatitis B vaccination or previous negative hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) test results.

The determination of "high risk for HBV" is identified by the primary care physician or practitioner who assesses the patient's history, which is part of any complete medical history, typically part of an annual wellness visit and considered in the development of a comprehensive prevention plan.

Effective: September 28, 2016

This announcement can be found at: [Decision Memo for Screening for Hepatitis B Virus \(HBV\) Infection \(CAG-00447N\)](#)

HealthPartners MSHO is a health plan that contracts with both Medicare and the Minnesota Medical Assistance (Medicaid) program to provide benefits of both programs to enrollees. HealthPartners Freedom is a Cost plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in HealthPartners depends on contract renewal.

H2462_90242 IR Approved 06/2015

H2422_90242 IR Approved 07/2015