

## Glaucoma Screening in Older Adults HEDIS Medicare Measure

This measure assesses the percentage of Medicare members 65 years and older without a prior diagnosis of glaucoma or glaucoma suspect, who received a glaucoma eye exam by an eye-care professional (Ophthalmologist, optometrist) for the early identification of glaucomatous conditions.

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases which result in **irreversible damage** to the optic nerve. Untreated glaucoma leads to vision loss and blindness. Early-stage glaucoma can be easily treated and disease progression can be significantly delayed or prevented.

Who is most at risk for developing glaucoma?

- African Americans over age 40
- Everyone over age 60, especially Mexican Americans
- People with a family history of glaucoma
- People who have diabetes

What tests do eye professionals use to detect glaucoma? Share this information with your patients.

- Comprehensive dilated eye exam (DRE)
- Tonometry (measures the pressure in the eye)
- Threshold Visual Field (measures peripheral vision)

What is your responsibility?

- Assess need for glaucoma screening
- Refer to eye-care professional, as needed. Adults over age 60 should have a glaucoma screening annually. No referral is needed if you refer to a Block Vision provider.
- Follow-up to make sure the patient has completed the exam
- Document your referral and any results
- Educate your patients on what glaucoma is and the importance of being screened at least every other year.

Questions to ask your patients that may increase adherence:

1. Do you have an eye doctor? (Use Block directory)
2. When was the last time you went to an eye doctor?
3. Can you tell me why you think it is important/unimportant to see an eye doctor?
4. How can we help you make an appointment for the eye doctor?
5. Between 1 and 10, 1 being least sure and 10 being most sure, how sure are you that you will keep your appointment? What will make it easier for you to keep the appointment?

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