

Monthly MIPPA Moment: May is Arthritis Awareness Month

MIPPA (Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act) has a goal of educating older adults on Medicare's cost-saving benefits & preventive services.

In the United States, more than 54 million people have arthritis. That number is expected to grow to 67 million by 2030. Arthritis is the nation's No. 1 cause of disability and there are over 100 different types of Arthritis, the two most common are: osteoarthritis (OA) and rheumatoid arthritis (RA). While OA occurs from normal wear and tear, RA is caused by your immune system attacking the tissues of the body.

Arthritis & Medicare Preventive Services

Among older Americans with RA and OA, studies have shown that important preventive tests and services such as influenza and pneumococcal vaccination were substantially underutilized. Based upon higher rates and risk factors for adverse events (for example, serious infections, fracture, malignancy, and cardiovascular disease) among patients with inflammatory arthritis, the need for the preventive tests and services we studied is generally more compelling for RA patients than for patients with OA or the general population and it is important to speak with your provider to see what preventive services you may be eligible to receive.

Original Medicare (parts A and B only) will cover services and supplies for any arthritis treatment and comorbid preventive services if your doctor has determined that it's medically necessary. If you have Medicare Part B (medical insurance), you'll most likely pay the monthly premium, which in 2021, for most people that amount is \$148.50. In 2021, you'll also probably pay \$203 for your annual Part B deductible.

After the deductible, you typically pay a 20% copay of Medicare-approved amounts for:

- most doctor services (including while a hospital inpatient)
- outpatient therapy
- durable medical equipment, such as a walker or wheelchair

Adapted from Health.com and Medicare.gov. For more MIPPA Program information, call MIPPA Program Specialist,
Leilani Amundson, at 608-240-7458.