



Diabetes Screening & Definitions Update: CY 2024 Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule

Related CR Release Date: May 2, 2024

MLN Matters Number: MM13487

Effective Date: January 1, 2024

Related Change Request (CR) Number: CR 13487

Implementation Date: October 7, 2024

Related CR Transmittal Number: [R12600BP](#) & [R12600CP](#)

Related CR Title: Expand Diabetes Screening and Diabetes Definitions Policy Update in the Calendar Year 2024 Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule

Affected Providers

- Physicians
- Suppliers
- Other providers billing Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for services provided to Medicare patients

Action Needed

Make sure your billing staff knows about:

- The revised definition of diabetes
- Revised diabetes screening frequency limitations
- Coverage of the Hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) test for diabetes screening

Background

CR 13487 advises you of policy updates for diabetes screening and diabetes definitions resulting from changes specified in the CY 2024 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) Final Rule ([88 FR 78818](#)).

Medicare Program Policy Before January 1, 2024

- **Tests:** CMS covered 2 tests for diabetes screening, including:
 - The Fasting Plasma Glucose (FPG) test (HCPCS code 82947, Glucose; quantitative, blood (except reagent strip))
 - The Post Glucose Challenge Test, also called the Glucose Tolerance Test (GTT), HCPCS codes 82950 (Glucose; post glucose dose (includes glucose)) and 82951 (Glucose; tolerance tests (GTT), 3 specimens (includes glucose))

Note: We covered the Hemoglobin A1C (HbA1c) test (HCPCS code 83036) for purposes of diabetes management but not for diabetes screening.

- **Frequency Limitations:** We allowed 2 screening tests per CY if the patient was previously diagnosed with prediabetes and 1 screening test per year for patients who were previously tested but not diagnosed with prediabetes, or who were never tested.

Note: Prediabetes was defined in regulations as a condition of abnormal glucose metabolism diagnosed using 1 of these criteria:

- A fasting glucose level of 100-125 mg/dL
- A 2-hour post-glucose challenge of 140-199 mg/dL

The term prediabetes includes these conditions:

- Impaired fasting glucose
- Impaired glucose tolerance

- **Definition:** The regulatory definition of diabetes for purposes of diabetes screening, Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT), and Diabetes Outpatient Self-Management Training Services (DSMT) included a clinically specific test-based definition for diabetes. The regulatory text read: Diabetes means diabetes mellitus, a condition of abnormal glucose metabolism diagnosed using these criteria:
 - A fasting blood sugar greater than or equal to 126 mg/dL on 2 different occasions
 - A 2-hour post-glucose challenge greater than or equal to 200 mg/dL on 2 different occasions
 - A random glucose test over 200 mg/dL for a person with symptoms of uncontrolled diabetes
- Find more information on:
 - Diabetes screening coverage at [42 CFR 410.18](#)
 - MNT coverage at [42 CFR 410.132](#)
 - DSMT coverage at [42 CFR 410.140](#)

Policy Updates Effective January 1, 2024

- **Tests:** Medicare now covers the HbA1c test for diabetes screening in addition to the FPG and GTT tests already authorized for diabetes screening.

Note: Patient coinsurance and deductible don't apply to the HbA1c tests you provide for diabetes screening because the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, August 2021 Final Recommendation Statement on Diabetes Screening includes the HbA1c test (Grade B).

- **Frequency Limitations:** We simplified diabetes screening frequency limitations to not more than 2 times within the 12-month period following the date of the most recent diabetes screening test of that patient. Medicare no longer distinguishes diabetes

screening frequency limitations based on a prior diagnosis of prediabetes. We removed the regulatory definition of prediabetes from Medicare regulations.

- **Definitions:** We simplified the regulatory definition of diabetes for purposes of diabetes screening, MNT, and DSMT. It's now: Diabetes means diabetes mellitus, a condition of abnormal glucose metabolism.

CR 13487 has 2 transmittals:

- Transmittal R12600BP updates Section 300.1 of the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, [Chapter 15](#)
- Transmittal R12600CP updates Section 300 of the Medicare Claims Processing Manual, [Chapter 4](#)

MACs won't search their files for previously processed claims unless you bring them to their attention.

More Information

We issued CR 13487 to your MAC as the official instruction for this change.

For more information, [find your MAC's website](#).

Document History

Date of Change	Description
May 3, 2024	Initial article released.

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