

STATE OF NEBRASKA

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NEWS RELEASE

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Bone Mass Measurements Available Through Medicare

The month of May is National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month, and the Nebraska Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) reminds beneficiaries that Medicare provides coverage of bone mass measurements for people at risk for osteoporosis.

“One out of every two women, and one in four men over 50 will have an osteoporosis-related fracture in their lifetime,” said Jina Ragland, Director of the Nebraska SHIIP. “Twenty percent of seniors who suffer a hip fracture die within one year.”

According to a U.S. Surgeon General’s report, due to an aging population, combined with the previous lack of focus on bone health, the number of hip fractures in the United States could double or triple by the year 2020. The report found that many people are not given adequate prevention information and are not having appropriate testing.

Medicare covers bone mass measurements every two years for qualified individuals. A qualified individual refers to a Medicare beneficiary who meets the medical indications for one of the following categories:

1. An estrogen-deficient woman;
2. An individual with vertebral abnormalities;
3. An individual with known primary hyperparathyroidism;
4. Some individuals receiving steroid therapy;
5. Individuals receiving FDA-approved osteoporosis drug therapy.

For more information on bone mass measurements, or any of Medicare’s other preventive benefits, contact SHIIP at 1-800-234-7119 or visit www.doi.ne.gov/shiip on the web.