

Dear Member:

Recently, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) determined that screening for Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection is reasonable and necessary for early detection of HIV. As a result, Medicare beneficiaries are now eligible for one annual HIV screening which will be covered by TexanPlus® HMO beginning in 2010.¹

This does not mean or imply that you have or are at risk of having the HIV virus.

Why are you sending me this letter?

This letter is simply to notify you that as a person with Medicare and a TexanPlus® plan member, you are entitled to this annual preventive benefit from Medicare anytime after January 1, 2010. We want to remind you that HIV screening is strictly up to you and is offered as a **voluntary** Medicare Advantage benefit from TexanPlus®.

Why is Medicare covering HIV testing?

HIV screening is now offered as an annual covered benefit because Medicare believes it is an important step forward in protecting people with Medicare from the potentially devastating and life-threatening complications of HIV and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Should I talk to my doctor about HIV testing?

If you have reason to believe you may be at risk for the HIV virus or aren't sure if you should be tested for HIV, we urge you to see your doctor as soon as possible to discuss your health and find out more about HIV risk factors.

What should I do if I want to make arrangements for HIV screening?

To find out what you need to do to make arrangements for an HIV screening, you should contact TexanPlus® at 1-866-230-2513 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in your local time zone (TTY users call 1-800-958-2692) every day. As always, TexanPlus® is here to assist you and answer your questions about your plan benefits and coverage—including HIV testing.

Thank you,
TexanPlus®

¹Voluntary HIV screening for pregnant Medicare beneficiaries is covered up to three times during each pregnancy, when ordered by clinician.

Please note, this screening as well as any other medical information provided by you is protected health information (PHI) and may not be released or shared without your written consent.

TexanPlus® HMO is a Medicare-Approved Medicare Advantage plan offered through the following organization that contracts with the Federal government: SelectCare Health Plans, doing business as TexasFirst Health Plans®, a member of the Universal American family of companies.