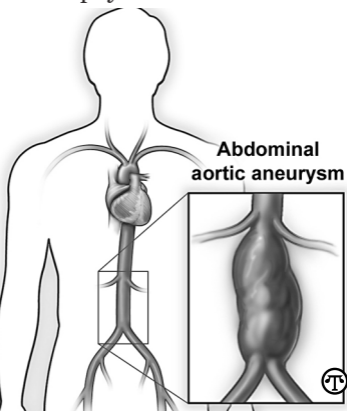


Spotlight On Vascular Health

A Medicare Benefit That Can Save Your Life

(NAPSA)—During the first six months of enrollment, qualified Medicare recipients have the opportunity for a free, one-time, ultrasound abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) screening to determine if their aorta is dangerously enlarged. Qualified beneficiaries are men who have smoked sometime during their lives and men and women with a family history of AAA. The screening is part of the Welcome to Medicare physical.



New qualified Medicare recipients may be eligible for a one-time AAA screening.

Why worry about AAA? It is estimated that nearly 15,000 people in the U.S. may have AAA threatening enough to cause death from its rupture if not treated. When it is diagnosed early before it causes symptoms, vascular surgeons can treat an AAA with highly effective and safe treatments. The treatment options include medical management with close follow-up for small AAAs and minimally invasive endovascular procedures, or open surgery, for larger aneurysms.

To find out more about AAA and locate a vascular surgeon, visit the Society of Vascular Surgery's Web Site at VascularWeb.org.