

**A National Drive to  
Find the Undiagnosed**

# MedicareDiabetes Screening Project

Volume 1, Issue 6, January 2008. Sarah E. Nordstrom, Editor

In This Issue:

- Columbus Fire Department
- New Hampshire Update
- Screening is Cost-Effective
- AMA & Diabetes Screening
- Cost of Diabetes in 2007
- One Call, One Click
- Did You Know?
- F.Y.I. Article Links
- About Us



Columbus Fire & Emergency Medical Services

**It's only January, but it's  
really heating up in  
Columbus, Georgia!**

The MDSP and the Columbus Research Foundation are working with the Columbus Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services to spread the word about the diabetes screening. The MDSP senior brochure is now available on their website. [Link to Columbus Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.](#)

## **RTI: New Study Finds Screening for Pre-Diabetes Cost-Effective**

RTI International reported on a new study published in the November issue of *Diabetes Care*. The study, entitled "Cost Effectiveness of Screening for Pre-Diabetes Among Overweight and Obese U.S. Adults," found that screening overweight and obese adults for diabetes, and treating those found to have pre-diabetes using the Diabetes Prevention Program, would be cost effective. [Link to RTI International Article](#)

## **New Hampshire Update**

MDSP activities in New Hampshire really geared up in December!

While the presidential primary candidates were roving all over New Hampshire last month, they were very likely to run into news about Medicare diabetes screening. Tom Maher, New Hampshire Director of the MDSP, visited and spoke about the diabetes screening benefit in Medicare at events all over the state, including 10 senior centers and at a Dover Democratic Party meeting. Tom also conducted interviews with the Portsmouth Herald, the Fosters Daily Democrat and WKXL-AM. A MDSP-New Hampshire partner's meeting was held on December 14 at the American Association for Retired Persons (AARP) office in Manchester, NH.

## **American Medical News writes: "Diabetes Guidelines: Screen More People Earlier"**

American Medical News, a weekly publication of the American Medical Association, highlights the American Diabetes Association's guidelines for screening for pre-diabetes in the January 21, 2008 edition. Irl Hirsch, M.D., chair of the panel which drafted the ADA screening guidelines said "Specifically, people who are overweight or obese, or have one or more diabetes risk factors -- those individuals should be screened."

Being age 65 or older is considered a risk factor for diabetes, and the MDSP urges all seniors to ask their doctor about the free diabetes screening benefit in Medicare. [Link to AMNews Article](#)

## ADA: The Toll of Diabetes is \$174 Billion Annually

The American Diabetes Association announced at a Capitol Hill press conference on January 23 that the cost of diabetes has risen to \$174 billion annually, a 32% increase since 2002. Medical expenditures for care are estimated to be \$116 billion, and 1 out of every 5 health care dollars is spent on caring for a person with diagnosed diabetes. It is important to clarify that this figure does not account for people with undiagnosed diabetes, which includes more than six million people in the U.S., so the actual cost of diabetes may be much higher. The press release can be found here: [Link to ADA Press Release](#)

### did you know?

**the cost of diabetes in Georgia is \$5.1 billion and \$876 million in New Hampshire each year**

[Link to ADA's Diabetes Cost Calculator](#)

---

### F.Y.I Article Links

["Medicare Project Pays Doctors For Saving Money"](#)

[Combating Rising Health Care Costs](#)

---

### About Us:

There are 35 million seniors in Medicare who are 65 years or older. As many as 17 million of them have undiagnosed diabetes or pre-diabetes. Since the passage of the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, Medicare now covers free screening tests for diabetes and pre-diabetes for at-risk seniors. However, initial data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) suggests that these benefits have been under-utilized.

That's why government, professional and private sector organizations, co-chaired by the American Diabetes Association, the Healthcare Leadership Council, and Novo Nordisk Inc., are joining forces to create awareness of the screening benefits for diabetes and pre-diabetes available under Medicare.

## The National Diabetes Education Program: Your Source for Free Diabetes Information



Looking for free diabetes information that's easy to get, scientifically based, written in plain language, and from a source you can trust? All it takes is one call or one click to the **National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP)** to get the free diabetes

information you need. NDEP makes it easy to get free information on living with diabetes, tips to prevent or delay type 2 diabetes, and how to help loved ones manage the disease. Just call **1-888-693-NDEP** or click

[www.YourDiabetesInfo.org](http://www.YourDiabetesInfo.org). NDEP is a partnership of the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and more than 200 public and private partners.