



## Sample Indicator Measure Related to Aging Population

Older adults are among the fastest growing age groups, and the first “baby boomers” (adults born between 1946 and 1964) will turn 65 in 2011. More than 37 million people in this group (60 percent) will manage more than 1 chronic condition by 2030.

Older adults are at high risk for developing chronic illnesses and related disabilities. These chronic conditions include:

- Diabetes mellitus
- Arthritis
- Congestive heart failure
- Dementia

Many experience hospitalizations, nursing home admissions, and low-quality care. They also may lose the ability to live independently at home. Chronic conditions are the leading cause of death among older adults.

Preventive health services are valuable for maintaining the quality of life and wellness of older adults. In fact, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 includes provisions related to relevant Medicare services. However, preventive services are underused, especially among certain racial and ethnic groups. Suggested Measure:

### 1. **Percent of Medicare Eligible Population with an Annual Checkup**

We developed this measure using publicly available data from Health Resources and Services Administration. The data are presented by Primary Care Service Area (PCSA) within the four-county Haskell Memorial Service Area. PCSAs are areas defined by aggregating ZIP areas to reflect Medicare patient travel to primary care providers. Within the database we accessed for this potential health indicator is information about pertinent health care resources, population descriptors, health care need measures, and Medicare utilization statistics. PCSAs include a ZIP area with one or more primary care providers and any contiguous ZIP areas whose Medicare populations seek the plurality of their primary care from those providers. Unique features of PCSAs include: service areas that encompass actual patterns of local primary care use; links between each PCSA and primary care resources, population characteristics and Medicare primary care utilization; and capacity for each PCSA to be cast into a larger framework of political, sociological and economic characteristics.

**Percent of Medicare Eligible Population with Annual Checkup in 2007 by Primary Care Service Area**

