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NEWS RELEASE

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MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES RECEIVE FREE PREVENTIVE SERVICES

Cost is no longer a barrier to staying healthy

BOISE ID (June 14, 2012) – Idaho Medicare beneficiaries are taking advantage of free preventive services provided by the Affordable Care Act. During the first five months of 2012, 50,975 people in Idaho with original Medicare received at least one preventive service. This includes 5,050 who have taken advantage of the Annual Wellness Visit.

The Idaho Department of Insurance encourages citizens to participate in these services. Department Director Bill Deal says, "By utilizing these services, people can stay healthy and take charge of their own health and prevent health problems before they happen."

Free preventive health care services, provided with no deductible or co-pay, for Medicare beneficiaries include annual wellness exams, cancer screenings, mammograms and tobacco use cessation counseling.

The Department's Senior Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) office provides free and unbiased information, counseling and assistance regarding Medicare with the objective of assisting Medicare beneficiaries in making informed buying decisions. To contact a SHIBA representative, Idahoans are encouraged to call 800-247-4422.

To learn what screenings, vaccinations and other preventive services doctors recommend for you, visit the *myhealthfinder* tool at www.healthfinder.gov.

About the Department of Insurance
The Idaho Department of Insurance has been regulating the business of insurance in Idaho since 1901. The mission of the Department is to equitably, effectively and efficiently administer the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire Code. For more information, visit www.doi.idaho.gov.

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