

Backgrounder/Fact Sheet

Life Line Screening: The Leading Provider of Mobile Preventive Health Screenings

Helping Millions of Americans Maintain Independence and Health Through Early Detection of Stroke Risk, Vascular Disease, and Osteoporosis

About Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening, the nation's largest provider of mobile preventive health screenings, is meeting the demand from health-conscious baby boomers and senior citizens nationwide for affordable, convenient, high-quality preventive health screenings that are key to the early detection of stroke risk, vascular diseases, and osteoporosis. All are prevalent and serious maladies that generally do not present symptoms and often are overlooked by the U.S. health care system. They can be detected by quick, painless non-invasive ultrasound tests.

Every day extensively-trained Life Line Screening health teams fan out across America's community centers, places of worship, and other neighborhood venues in all of the contiguous states to make it as convenient as possible for those age 50 and above, or those 40-49 with a family history of cardiovascular disease or osteoporosis, to be screened.

All ultrasound tests are read by board certified physicians, and studies show Life Line Screening's test results are as accurate as those of top hospitals. In fact, more than 400 hospitals partner with Life Line Screening to provide services in their areas.

The Need for Preventive Screenings

Stroke, vascular disease and osteoporosis are among the leading causes of sudden death and disability in the United States. Stroke strikes every 45 seconds and claims a life every three minutes. It is the third leading cause of death in the United States and the number one cause of adult disability.

These diseases are considered "silent killers" that strike with no previous symptoms or only subtle ones. In fact, half of all stroke victims are asymptomatic. Yet regular physical exams and recommended screening guidelines too often do not include screenings in the absence of symptoms or a family history, since health insurers normally do not cover the cost.

A simple screening may prevent death or disability.

Risk Rate: 8-10 % of People Screened

Preventive health screenings for stroke, vascular disease and osteoporosis uncover more disease than breast and colon cancer screenings combined. Life Line Screening has screened more than 5 million Americans and found signs of disease in eight to 10 percent, 400,000 to 500,000 Americans, a number roughly equaling the population of Omaha, Nebraska or Albuquerque, New Mexico. Participants from all across the nation have voluntarily contacted Life Line Screening to thank the company for saving their lives or the lives of their loved ones.

Services

Life Line Screening's four painless ultrasound procedures search for the most common causes of stroke, death and disability:

- 1. Carotid Artery Blockage**, which can constrict or stop blood flow to the brain and lead to stroke. The stroke screening visualizes fatty plaque buildup and measures the velocity of blood flow to the brain.
- 2. Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD)**, or hardening of the arteries. The Ankle Brachial Index screening checks for PAD, a condition in which the arteries that carry blood to the arms or legs become narrowed or clogged, slowing or stopping the flow of blood. PAD is closely linked to coronary artery disease. Identifying individuals with PAD can help prevent heart attack and stroke.
- 3. Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms**, which can lead to a ruptured abdominal aorta that generally causes death. The test screens for enlargements or weak areas in the main blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body.
- 4. Osteoporosis**, a bone weakening disease that afflicts both women and men and often leads to broken bones and disability. The screening is performed with a quantitative ultrasound bone densitometer, using the heel as a measurement site. This test compares the participant's bone density to World Health Organization guidelines.
- 5. New! Blood testing:** Life Line Screening recently began offering mobile blood testing to screen Americans for risk factors associated with coronary heart disease, stroke and diabetes. The laboratory-accurate lipid panel, which can include total cholesterol, LDL, HDL and triglycerides; blood glucose; and high sensitivity C-reactive protein, will be available in most states by the end of 2007.

Who Should Be Screened

The vast majority of Life Line Screening participants are men and women age 50 and older and those age 40 and above with a family history of cardiovascular disease or osteoporosis or risk factors such as smoking, high blood pressure, obesity, inactivity, etc.

When Life Line Screening technicians find an urgent health concerns, participants are advised to visit their doctor immediately. All participants receive a detailed report within three weeks and are encouraged to share the results with their doctor.

History

Life Line Screening, a privately-held company headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, provides preventive health screenings in 48 states. It began operations in 1993 and subsequently expanded services nationwide in response to the overwhelming need and demand from America's health-conscious senior citizens and baby boomers for affordable, convenient, high-quality preventive health screenings for stroke risk, vascular diseases, and osteoporosis.

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