



Screenings Identify Stroke and Other Risks

Carotid artery disease is the leading cause of strokes. More than 50% of stroke victims present no warning signs. After the age of 55, the risk of stroke doubles every 10 years. Most significantly, 97% of the adult population cannot name a single warning sign of a stroke. A simple screening test can help identify the risk of stroke.

An abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) can also strike individuals with almost no warning signs. The most common location for an AAA is below the area where the aorta divides to supply blood to the kidneys and above where it divides to supply blood to the pelvis and legs. A screening test can identify risk for AAA.

Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) or hardening of the arteries / atherosclerosis occurs in approximately 12 million Americans. This narrowing of the blood vessels in the legs is caused by the buildup of fatty plaque and is a strong predictor of heart disease. PAD may show up in leg arteries before there are any signs or symptoms.

Cloud County Health Center will be offering screenings for these risk issues through the month of January 2009. The screening tests are non-invasive, pain free, and can help save your life. The test is performed by a Registered Vascular Technologist in the Radiology Department. The fee for each exam is \$20 and is due at the time of service. Insurance companies will not be billed for this exam and no physician's order is required.

Any one or all three screenings may be scheduled through the Radiology Department at Cloud County Health Center (785) 243-8447 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.