



Annual Well Visit vs. Annual Physical

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ANNUAL WELLNESS VISIT



Medicare Coverage of Physical Exams—Know the Differences

Initial Preventive Physical Examination (IPPE)

Review of medical and social health history, and preventive services education

- ✓ Covered only once, within 12 months of Part B enrollment
- ✓ Patient pays nothing (if provider accepts assignment)

Annual Wellness Visit (AWV)

Visit to develop or update a personalized prevention plan, and perform a health risk assessment

- ✓ Covered once every 12 months
- ✓ Patient pays nothing (if provider accepts assignment)

Routine Physical Examination (See Section 90)

Exam performed without relationship to treatment or diagnosis for a specific illness, symptom, complaint, or injury

- ✗ Not covered by Medicare; prohibited by statute
- ✗ Patient pays 100% out-of-pocket

Comparisons of AWW and Annual Physical

AWV:

Medical history completed

Review of risk factors for illness

Personalized prevention plan

Medication review

Performed by PCPs as well as Specialty Physicians to include neurologists, rheumatologists, cardiologists

Annual Physical:

Physical exam

Blood work and lab tests

Address new health problems

Vaccines

Co-pay associated



Understanding the Difference between AWW and Annual Physical

- **There are (3) components to the Annual Wellness Visit:**
 - **1) Completion of a Health Risk Assessment (HRA)** – addresses all facets of the health and well being of patients/members
 - HRA compliance must include the following topics:
 - Demographics
 - Self-assessment of health status
 - Behavioral risks
 - Medical and family health history
 - Psychosocial risks
 - ADLs
 - Advanced care planning
 - **2) Vital Signs** – collecting and documenting vital signs
 - Height
 - Weight
 - BMI
 - Blood pressure
 - **3) Consultation**
 - HRA results contribute to the development of 5 – 10 year health plan
 - Development of preventative plan of action toward improving health

Coding Opportunities

Annual Wellness Visit – Initial – G0438 – limited to Medicare members after the first 12 months of enrollment

- used once in a lifetime

Annual Wellness Visit – Subsequent – G0439 – use the following calendar year after any wellness visit has been completed

IPPE – G0402 – known as “Welcome to Medicare” preventative visit

- once in a lifetime visit completed within 90 days of enrolling in Medicare

Benefits from completing the Annual Wellness Visit (AWV)

- Providers are given the opportunity to screen patients for new problems and manage patients co-morbidities and chronic illnesses
- Improve quality of care delivered by provider
- Identification of Gaps In Care
- Improved medical outcomes, cost savings and overall reduction in healthcare costs
 - evidence of 105 % increase in colorectal screening in patients completing AWW
 - Evidence of 58 % increase in administration of pneumovax vaccines in patients who have completed an AWW
 - 96 % in breast cancer screening
 - patients completing AWW averaged \$570 less annually in Medicare expenses 1000 patients completing an AWW can deliver ¼ million dollars in annual shared savings

If you have any questions or would like more resources provided, please feel free to call or email me at your convenience.

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