
Medicare Annual Wellness Visit

What Patients Need to Know

1. What is the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit?

The Medicare Annual Wellness Visit (AWV) is a way for our practice to keep you as healthy as possible. Our practice helps you develop or update a personalized prevention plan based on your current health and risk factors to prevent disease or disability.

2. What is the difference between the Welcome to Medicare Preventive Visit and the Annual Wellness Visit?

The Welcome to Medicare Preventive Visit is a once per lifetime benefit that may be provided only within the first 12 months of enrollment in Medicare Part B. Goals of the visit are health promotion, disease detection, and prevention of medical conditions. Goals of the AWV are similar and can be provided every year after your first year of Medicare Part B coverage.

3. Can I schedule a Welcome to Medicare Visit if 12 months have passed since my enrollment in Medicare Part B?

No. You are only eligible within the first 12 months of Medicare Part B enrollment for a Welcome to Medicare Preventive Visit. However, you may schedule an AWV if it is after the first 12 months of your first Medicare Part B coverage period.

4. Is the AWV the same as an annual physical exam?

No. The AWV does not replace a complete head-to-toe physical exam.

5. What can I expect at the visit?

Our practice will collect a medical and family health history and share education and counseling about preventive services. This can include certain screenings, shots, and referrals for other care, if needed. Your height, weight, and blood pressure readings will also be collected.

6. Is there a charge for the AWV?

No. This benefit is covered 100% by Medicare. This visit does not deal with new or existing health problems, other medical concerns, or medication refills. A separate charge would be applied to these services, whether they are provided on the day of the AWV or during another visit.

7. What should I bring to my AWV?

Bring your medical (including surgery) and immunization records if you are seeing a new physician. Know your family health history to help determine if you are at risk for certain diseases. Bring a list of prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs, and supplements that you currently take, how often you take them, and why you take them. Be prepared to present the physician with a list of past and current health providers involved in your care.

February 2017



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS