

## A WORD TO OUR PATIENTS ABOUT MEDICARE AND WELLNESS CARE

Dear Patient,

We want you to receive wellness care – health care that may lower your risk of illness or injury. Medicare pays for most wellness care, but it does not pay for all the wellness care you might need. We want you to know about your Medicare benefits and how we can help you get the most from them.

The term “physical” is often used to describe wellness care. But Medicare does not pay for a traditional, head-to-toe physical. Medicare does pay for a wellness visit once a year to identify health risks and help you to reduce them. At your wellness visit, our health care team will take a complete health history and provide several other services:

- Screenings to detect depression, risk for falling and other problems,
- A limited physical exam to check your blood pressure, weight, vision and other things depending on your age, gender and level of activity,
- Recommendations for other wellness services and healthy lifestyle changes,
- Discuss Medicare-covered services that allow our care team to more closely monitor your health conditions and update your plan of care before office visits.

Before your appointment, our staff will ask you some questions about your health and may ask you to fill out a form to help identify your health risks.

A wellness visit does not deal with new or existing health problems. That would be a separate service and requires a longer appointment. Please let our scheduling staff know if you need the doctor’s help with a health problem, a medication refill or something else. We may need to schedule a separate appointment to address problems. *A separate charge applies to these services, whether provided on the same date or a different date than the wellness visit.*

We hope to help you get the most from your Medicare wellness benefits. Please contact us with any questions.