

Annual Wellness Visit (AWV) FAQ for Patients

Is the Initial Preventative Physical (IPPE) the same as a patient yearly physical?

No. The IPPE is not a routine physical that some older adults may get periodically from their provider. The IPPE is an introduction to Medicare and covered benefits, and focuses on health promotion, disease prevention, and detection to help patients stay well.

Is the AWV the same as a patient's yearly physical?

*No. The AWV isn't a routine physical that some older adults may get periodically from their provider. **Medicare does not cover routine physical exams.***

Are clinical lab tests part of the IPPE or AWV?

No. The IPPE and AWV don't include clinical lab tests, but you may make appropriate referrals for these tests as part of the IPPE or AWV.

Does the deductible, coinsurance, or copayment apply for the IPPE?

No. We waive the coinsurance, copayment, and Part B deductible for the IPPE.

**However, if you want your provider to address other medical concerns (like a sore knee or other medical conditions), you may need to reschedule your Wellness Visit so your acute concerns may be addressed, at which point your part B deductible and copay may apply. **

Does the deductible, coinsurance, or copayment apply for the AWV?

No. We waive the coinsurance, copayment, and Part B deductible for the AWV.

If a patient enrolls in Medicare in 2022, can they get the IPPE in 2023 if it was not performed in 2022?

An eligible 2022 patient who hasn't had an IPPE and whose initial enrollment in Part B began in 2022, can get an IPPE in 2023 if it's within 12 months of the patient's first Part B enrollment effective date.

Who is eligible for the AWV?

*Medicare covers an AWV for all patients who aren't within 12 months after the eligibility date for their first Part B benefit period and who didn't have an IPPE or an AWV within the past 12 months. **Medicare pays for only 1 IPPE per patient per lifetime and 1 additional AWV per year thereafter.***

Why do I need an Annual Wellness Visit?

Medicare's Annual Wellness Visit is a free benefit to anyone enrolled in Medicare. It is a special visit where you and your care team can focus on your overall health, keeping you healthy, and preventing or detecting disease. You and your health care team will create a Personalized Prevention Plan that is clear, easy to follow and unique to you. The Plan will identify the steps you will take to stay healthy, active, and as independent as possible. Planning to stay healthy will help you:

- Lower your health care costs
- Learn how to make small changes in your lifestyle to keep you healthy
- Detect diseases early, before they become a problem
- Review your medical conditions and current list of medications, vitamins, and supplements

- *Review preventive care you are entitled to and see if you are up to date on your vaccines.*

Does Medicare pay for a routine Annual Physical Exam?

No. Medicare does not pay for annual exams. Medicare pays for two kinds of well visits:

- *“Welcome to Medicare” visit, a once in a lifetime visit during your first 12 months of Medicare Part B coverage*
- *Annual Wellness Visit each year after the first 12 months*

The “Welcome to Medicare” visit and each yearly Annual Wellness Visit is covered by Medicare.

Will I see my provider during my Annual Wellness Visit?

During your visit, your healthcare team will collect your information and perform any preventative care screenings you may need. Your provider will review your results and discuss them with you.

What if I need refills for my medications?

If medication refills are discussed, this will be billed as an office visit and may add coinsurance and copay.

What are other Medicare part B preventable services?

- *Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening*
- *Advance Care Planning*
- *Alcohol Misuse Screening & Counseling*
- *Bone density testing*
- *Cancer screenings, including breast, cervical, vaginal, prostate, Colorectal and lung*
- *Cardiovascular Disease screening and therapy*
- *Glaucoma Screening*
- *Hepatitis B, hepatitis C, HIV, and sexually transmitted infection screenings*
- *Immunizations, including flu, hepatitis B and pneumococcal*
- *Nutrition therapy services, including diabetes self-management training and obesity counseling*