

Sample wellness visit introduction

Welcome to your annual Medicare Preventive Visit! This exam is intended to help promote your health and identify major risks for disease. Medicare covers this exam once per year. This Medicare benefit has 3 different names based on when it occurs, as follows:

“Initial Preventive Wellness Visit” - also called the “Welcome to Medicare Exam” - available anytime within the first 12 months of joining Medicare

“First Annual Wellness Visit” - available any time after the first 12 months of joining Medicare

“Subsequent Annual Wellness Visit” - available annually after the First Annual Wellness Visit above

Your preventive visit will assess the following:

- your medical and surgical history
- your current medications
- your relevant family history
- your use of any alcohol, tobacco, or illicit drugs
- your current diet and physical activity
- any other physicians involved in your care
- any depression, cognitive impairment, or safety concerns
- an exam of your height, weight, body mass index, BP, & vision, along with any other areas of concern based on the above assessments
- any end-of-life planning concerns

The visit concludes with the following:

- development of a list of any identified preventive health concerns (a problem list)
- education, counseling, and referrals based on any such concerns
- a personalized written screening schedule detailing any recommended screening/preventive services that are covered by Medicare
- recommendations for end-of-life planning, if needed and desired
- other preventive services as may be recommended by your doctor

PLEASE NOTE: Per Medicare, this annual Medicare Preventive Visit is intended to focus on wellness and is limited to health promotion and disease prevention. To the extent that you and your doctor spend any time during your preventive exam addressing non-preventive issues such as illnesses, diseases, and/or injuries that you may have, Medicare has directed us to code and bill for such services separately and in addition to the preventive exam. We mention this in advance of your exam so that you are aware that you may incur charges for this visit, depending on the extent of the exam and any copays and/or deductibles you may be responsible for through your Medicare coverage.