
While Medicare does not cover a routine physical exam, an Annual Wellness Visit (AWV) contains elements that are similar to a check-up or physical.

Who is eligible?

Any Medicare beneficiary who:

- x Has been receiving Medicare Part B benefits for at least 12 months, and
- x Has not had an initial preventive physical examination (the “Welcome to Medicare” exam) or an AWV within the past 12 months.

How often will Medicare pay for an Annual Wellness Visit?

Medicare will pay for an Annual Wellness Visit once every 12 months.

Are there any deductibles or co-payments for the visit?

No. The Medicare Part B deductible and coinsurance payments do not apply to the AWV.

Detection of cognitive impairment is included in the Annual Wellness Visit. What does that mean?

During the exam, the doctor will assess an individual's cognitive function by direct observation, with due consideration of information obtained by way of patient report, concerns raised by family members, friends, caretakers, or others.

What else is included in the Annual Wellness Visit?

Prior to or during your appointment, you will be asked by your doctor or health professional to complete some questions about your health. This is called a Health Risk Assessment (HRA). The answers may provide important information to discuss with your health professional during the Annual Wellness Visit.

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Who can perform an Annual Wellness Visit?

An Annual Wellness Visit may be performed by a doctor or other practitioner recognized by Medicare, such as a nurse practitioner, physician assistant, clinical nurse specialist, or other health professional (including a health educator, a registered dietitian or nutrition professional), or a team of such medical professionals who are working under the direct supervision of a physician.

What should you bring to the visit?

You should bring your completed Health Risk Assessment, and a complete list of your medications (including vitamins and over-the-counter drugs) or all your medication bottles for the doctor to review. You should also bring a list of your top two to three concerns or questions for the doctor. If you have concerns about your memory or a chronic health condition (such as diabetes, heart disease, or depression), you might consider bringing a family member or friend with you to the appointment.

With the talk of repealing the Affordable Care Act, will the Annual Wellness Visit be repealed?

It is highly unlikely. None of the proposals to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) under consideration in Congress would change or repeal the Medicare provisions included in the ACA.

