



INFORMATION ON MEDICARE INITIAL PREVENTIVE VISIT AND ANNUAL WELLNESS VISITS

MEDICARE DOES NOT PAY FOR WHAT HAS BEEN KNOWN AS A YEARLY REGULAR PHYSICAL EXAM.

However, it does fully cover an Initial Preventive Visit called the Initial Preventative Physical Exam or “Welcome to Medicare” visit (done during your first 12 months as a Medicare part B patient) and an “Annual Wellness Visit” done every year thereafter. Both of these visits are for preventive care only. Despite the title of Physical Exam, it does not include any physical examination other than height, weight and blood pressure measurement.

WELCOME TO MEDICARE preventive visit includes:

Review of your social health history (e.g., smoking, alcohol & drug use).

Certain screenings and referrals for these if necessary (e.g., colonoscopy, mammograms)

Height, weight and blood pressure measurements (just measurements- no treatment)

ANNUAL WELLNESS VISITS include:

A review of your medical and family history

Developing or updating a list of current providers and prescriptions (just a list- no refills)

Review of screening schedule for appropriate preventive services.

Height, weight, blood pressure, and other routine measurements (just measurements- no treatment)

There is NO deductible for the information gathering and preventive services listed above.

However, you are responsible for coinsurance and/or deductibles for MEDICAL CARE.

It is not the same as preventive care. This is called Evaluation and Management and includes discussion, appropriate examination and treatment of medical problems like hypertension, diabetes, hyperlipidemia, lung and heart problems. This type of visit may be combined with a preventive visit or may need to be scheduled separately.

In summary, certain PREVENTIVE care is fully covered by Medicare in a visit called Welcome to Medicare or Annual Wellness Visit. This does not cover medical care such as discussion, appropriate physical examination, and treatment of medical concerns or problems. This problem oriented care is subject to coinsurance and/or deductibles. PREVENTIVE and PROBLEM ORIENTED visits are two very different things and are billed separately.

For more details on the specifics of preventive visits or for further information please go to Medicare.gov or MedicareInteractive.org.