

Annual Wellness Visit fact sheet

What is the Annual Wellness Visit (AWV)?

The AWV is a free annual preventive visit that focuses on providing a personalized prevention plan of services for Medicare Advantage members. The AWV is not a routine physical exam.



Who can perform the AWV?

A physician (doctor of medicine or osteopathy); a qualified, nonphysician practitioner (a physician assistant, nurse practitioner or certified clinical nurse specialist); a medical professional (including a health educator, registered dietitian, nutrition professional or other licensed practitioner); or a team of medical professionals working under the direct supervision of a physician may perform the AWV. However, for risk adjustment (RA) purposes the AWV must be completed by a CMS-approved provider (listing on next page).

Can a registered nurse perform the AWV?

Yes, for billing purposes. However, registered nurses are not on the list of acceptable physician specialties for RA purposes.

Who is eligible for the AWV?

An initial AWV is available to the beneficiary during the second year of eligibility for Medicare. Subsequent AWVs are allowed once per calendar year after the initial AWV.

Can evaluation and management (E/M) services be provided on the same day as the AWV?

Yes, the appropriate medically necessary E/M service may be billed in addition to the AWV. Report the Current Procedural Terminology® (CPT) code with modifier -25.

Note: Cost sharing for the care received may apply if treating an existing medical condition during the preventive service or if other services are billed in addition to the preventive service.

	Initial Preventive Physical Exam (IPPE)	Annual Wellness Visit (AWV)	Annual routine physicals/preventive services
HCPCS/CPT	G0402	G0438 and G0439	99381-99397
Purpose and frequency	<p>Face-to-face visit — includes preventive evaluation and management service</p> <p>This exam is a preventive physical exam and not a comprehensive physical checkup.</p> <p>This service is limited to new beneficiaries during the first 12 months of Medicare enrollment.</p>	<p>Face-to-face visit — includes personalized prevention plan of services</p> <p>G0438 initial AWV: Services limited to beneficiary during the second year the patient is eligible for Medicare Part B; only one first AWV per beneficiary per lifetime</p> <p>G0439 subsequent AWV: Coded the year following Initial AWV</p> <p>This benefit is once per calendar year.</p> <p>This exam is a preventive physical exam and not a comprehensive physical checkup.</p> <p>Note: The AWV is intended to build upon previously established IPPE.</p>	<p>Face-to-face comprehensive, multi-system exam based on the patient's age, gender and identified risk factors</p> <p>The comprehensive history obtained as part of the preventive medicine E/M service is not problem-oriented and does not involve a chief complaint or present illness. It does include a comprehensive system review and comprehensive or interval past, family and social history as well as a comprehensive assessment/history of pertinent risk factors.</p> <p>Includes clinical laboratory tests</p> <p>This benefit is once per calendar year.</p>
Acceptable providers for billing	Physician or qualified non-physician practitioner	Physician; qualified, non-physician practitioner; or medical professional Note: For RA purposes, see acceptable specialty list on next page.	Physician or qualified, non-physician practitioner

Acceptable physician specialty types for 2020 payment year (2019 dates of service) risk adjustment data submission

Code	Specialty	Code	Specialty	Code	Specialty
1	General practice	28	Colorectal surgery (formerly proctology)	79	Addiction medicine
2	General surgery	29	Pulmonary disease	80	Licensed clinical social worker
3	Allergy/Immunology	33*	Thoracic surgery	81	Critical care (intensivists)
4	Otolaryngology	34	Urology	82	Hematology
5	Anesthesiology	35	Chiropractic	83	Hematology/oncology
6	Cardiology	36	Nuclear medicine	84	Preventive medicine
7	Dermatology	37	Pediatric medicine	85	Maxillofacial surgery
8	Family practice	38	Geriatric medicine	86	Neuropsychiatry
9	Interventional pain management	39	Nephrology	89*	Certified clinical nurse specialty
10	Gastroenterology	40	Head surgery	90	Medical oncology
11	Internal medicine	41	Optometry	91	Surgical oncology
12	Osteopathic manipulation medicine	42	Certified nurse midwife	92	Radiation oncology
13	Neurology	43	Certified registered nurse anesthetist	93	Emergency medicine
14	Neurosurgery	44	Infectious disease	94	Interventional oncology
15	Speech language pathologist	46*	Endocrinology	97*	Physician assistant
16	Obstetrics/gynecology	48*	Podiatry	98	Gynecologist/oncologist
17	Hospice and palliative care	50*	Nurse practitioner	99	Unknown physician specialty
18	Ophthalmology	62*	Psychologist	C0	Sleep medicine
19	Oral surgery (dentists only)	64*	Audiologist	C3	Interventional cardiology
20	Orthopedic surgery	65	Physical therapist	C5	Dentist
21	Cardiac electrophysiology	66	Rheumatology	C6	Hospitalist
22	Pathology	67	Occupational therapist	C7	Advanced heart failure and transplant cardiology
23	Sports medicine	68	Clinical psychologist	C8	Medical toxicology
24	Plastic and reconstructive surgery	72*	Pain management	C9	Hematopoietic cell transplantation and cellular therapy
25	Physical medicine and rehabilitation	75*	Peripheral vascular disease	D3	Medical genetics and genomics
26	Psychiatry	77	Vascular surgery	D4	Undersea and hyperbaric medicine
27	Geriatric psychiatry	78	Cardiac surgery		

* Indicates a number has been skipped.

References:

- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, *"The ABCs of the Initial Preventative Physical Examination (IPPE)"*, Retrieved March 31, 2017, from <https://www.cms.gov>
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- CSSC Operations, *"Acceptable Physician Specialty Types Effective PY 2017"*, Retrieved March 31, 2017 from www.csscooperations.com

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