

# THE BASICS OF Medicare Annual Wellness Visits



The Medicare Annual Wellness Visit (AWV) is a preventive visit covered by Medicare at no cost to patients. Medicare AWVs are a great way to connect with your patients, focus on issues that may be overlooked in routine physical exams and develop a long-term preventive care plan.



**Health Risk Assessment**



**Patient History**



**Current Care Providers**



**Current Medications**



**Screenings**

During the visit, important information is gathered to develop a long-term preventive care plan.

## There are three types of preventive wellness visits covered by Medicare:

### Welcome to Medicare Visit

(G0402)

Initial Preventive Physical Examination, or IPPE

- Medicare pays for one per lifetime
- Must be done in **first 12 months** of Part B coverage

#### Example:

**Martha**  
Has had Medicare for **5 months**

According to Medicare criteria, Martha is eligible for a:

#### Welcome to Medicare Visit

because she enrolled in Medicare less than 12 months ago.

### Initial Medicare Annual Wellness Visit

(G0438)

- Applies the first time a beneficiary receives an AWV
- Patient is eligible **after the first 12 months** of Part B coverage
- Patient hasn't completed a Welcome to Medicare Visit in the past 12 months

#### Example:

**Joe**  
Has had Medicare for **18 months**

According to Medicare criteria, Joe is eligible for an:

#### Initial Medicare AWV

because he's had Medicare for longer than 12 months and has never had an AWV

### Subsequent Medicare Annual Wellness Visit

(G0439)

- Applies to all AWVs after a beneficiary's initial AWV
- No AWV within the past year

#### Example:

**Mary**  
Has had Medicare for **3 Years**  
had an initial Medicare AWV 13 months ago

According to Medicare criteria, Mary is eligible for a:

#### Subsequent Medicare AWV

because she's had Medicare longer than 12 months and it's been more than 11 months since her initial AWV.

# Visit Comparison

Required visit components per Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Required Components (at a minimum)	Welcome to Medicare Visit (G0402)	Initial Medicare Annual Wellness Visit (G0438)	Subsequent Medicare Annual Wellness Visit (G0439)
Establish/update Health Risk Assessment		X	X
Document height, weight, BMI and blood pressure	X	X	X
Document current medications and supplements	X	X	X
Review current opioid prescriptions and assess pain and risk factors. Provide non-opioid treatment options	X	X	X
Establish/update a list of current providers		X	X
Obtain and document medical, surgical and family history	X	X	X
Establish/update a list of the patient's risk factors, conditions and treatment options		X	X
Depression screening	X	X	
Assess cognitive function		X	X
Visual acuity screening	X		
One time EKG/ECG Screen	X		
Review patient's functional ability and level of safety	X	X	
Advance Care Planning (with patient consent)	X	X	X
Provide education, counseling and referrals based on visit components	X	X	X
Provide a written preventive screening schedule	X	X	X
Screen for potential Substance Use Disorders (SUDs)	X	X	X

## Learn More about Medicare Annual Wellness Visits

- ▶ Contact [ValueBaseCareQuestions@bryanhealth.org](mailto:ValueBaseCareQuestions@bryanhealth.org) for more information
- ▶ View the consumer guide to AWWs in the **Medicare & You** handbook on [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov)