## 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.











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

## **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

## **Subsequent Medicare Annual Wellness Visit** (G0439)

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

#### **Example:**

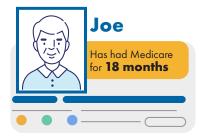


According to Medicare criteria, Martha is eligible for a:

#### **Welcome to Medicare Visit**

because she enrolled in Medicare less than 12 months ago.

### **Example:**



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

#### **Example:**



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		×	×
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
Establish/update a list of current providers		X	×
Obtain and document medical, surgical and family history	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	×	
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
Screen for potential Substance Use Disorders (SUDs)	X	X	X

## **Learn More about Medicare Annual Wellness Visits**

- Contact ValueBaseCareQuestions@bryanhealth.org for more information
- View the consumer guide to AWVs in the **Medicare & You** handbook on Medicare.gov

