

Medicare Annual Wellness Visit

What is a Medicare Annual Wellness Visit?

A Medicare annual wellness visit is a yearly health planning visit with your primary health care professional. It is available to anyone who has Medicare Part B. During the visit, you and your clinician will work together to create a plan that helps you stay healthy and avoid getting sick. Because this visit is to discuss your general health and wellness, it might not take place in an exam room.



What is the Difference between an Annual Wellness Visit and the “Welcome to Medicare” Visit?

- Your “Welcome to Medicare” visit will happen once during your first 12 months of receiving Medicare Part B. It will probably include:
 - Checking your height, weight, and blood pressure
 - A review of your health and family history
- You can have an annual wellness visit 12 months after your “Welcome to Medicare” visit and then every 12 months after.
- Your annual wellness visit includes more services than provided during your “Welcome to Medicare” visit.

What Will Happen at My Medicare Annual Wellness Visit?

At your annual wellness visit, make sure to have your Medicare information card with you. Although this type of visit does not include a physical exam, you will still get to talk to the clinician about any health concerns you have. You can schedule your annual wellness visit and a visit for a health problem on the same day, but they will count as two separate services. The table below lists what is included in the visit and what is not. You may be charged for anything that is not included.

Included in your annual wellness visit	NOT included in your annual wellness visit
Check of height, weight, blood pressure	Physical exam
Health risk assessment	Illness diagnosis
A review of your health and family history	Diagnostic tests like x-rays, ultrasounds, and bloodwork
Sharing a list of the health care professionals you see	Treatments for any condition you may have
Sharing a list of any medical equipment you use and where you get it	
A review of all of the medicines, supplements, and vitamins you are currently taking	
Testing for depression and mental health problems	
Talking about risks for certain health problems and personal health advice	
Planning a schedule of screening tests and shots you should receive over the next 5-10 years	
Referrals to any preventive services you may need	

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How Much Does a Medicare Annual Wellness Visit Cost?

- Medicare annual wellness visits are fully covered under Medicare Part B. This means that if you have Medicare Part B, the visits are free if you go to a health care professional who takes Medicare. You will not have to pay coinsurance, copayments, or a deductible.
- If you get other tests not normally given at an annual wellness visit, you may be charged for them. These may also include treatments for a condition you already have.

Why Should My Annual Wellness Visit Be with My Regular Primary Health Care Professional?

You don't have to have an annual wellness visit, but if you do, it's a good idea to have it with your regular primary health care professional. This is the person you see regularly or who knows you best, such as a doctor, nurse, or other licensed clinician. He or she can get you the tests you need, make sure your medicines are right for you, and see any changes in your health that may occur over time.

Questions for My Health Care Professional

- How is an annual wellness visit different from an annual physical?
- Do you accept Medicare payments?
- Am I eligible to have a Medicare annual wellness visit?
- What should I bring with me to my annual wellness visit?
- Who on the staff will be meeting with me during this visit?
- Will I be receiving any other tests or treatments I will be charged for during my annual wellness visit?

For More Information

- **Medicare.gov:**
www.medicare.gov/coverage/preventive-visit-and-yearly-wellness-exams.html
- **Families USA:**
familiesusa.org/sites/default/files/product_documents/Consumer-Guide-Medicare-Wellness-Visit.pdf

Notes:
