

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR OUR MEDICARE PATIENTS

Medicare Coverage for Preventive Visit and Yearly Wellness Exams

You are eligible for a one time “Welcome to Medicare” visit within the first 12 months after becoming eligible for Medicare. There is no co-pay or deductible applied to this service.

A “Welcome to Medicare” visit includes ONLY the following services:

- Height, weight, blood pressure and other routine measurements
- A simple vision test
- Review of potential risk for depression and level of safety
- An offer to discuss “advance directives” with your physician
- Discussion and documentation of recommended screening tests for your age and gender, including vaccines.

A yearly “Wellness” visit is available at no cost to Medicare recipients, every 12 months.

This includes the following services:

- Height, weight, blood pressure, and other routine measurements
- A review and update of your medical and family history
- Updating a list of current providers and prescriptions
- Detection of any thinking, reasoning impairment
- Personalized Health Advice
- Discussion and documentation of recommended screening tests for your age and gender, including vaccines.

Please understand these visits are not intended to be your annual physical exam. There is no physical exam at all included, per the Medicare policy. The purpose is to discuss “wellness”.

When you schedule your appointment for these services, it is important that you specify your expectation; if your desire is to obtain your medication refills, be physically examined, check the status of your chronic, new or changing health conditions, those services are not part of a wellness exam. That is a “problem focused” visit and is defined completely differently by Medicare. Please know that visits to manage your health problems and/or physical examination are subject to your regular plan benefits for a visit to your doctor. You may have out-of-pocket expense. However, for your convenience both services can be performed on the same day, so your wellness can be addressed by conducting the Medicare wellness visit, as well as managing your health problems. Again, a co-pay for those services will apply.

Most Medicare Advantage plans (the commercial plans you choose on the open market) do cover an annual “physical” exam, which includes the head-to-toe physical and management of your chronic health conditions that are unchanged. There may or may not be a co-pay for that service, depending on your individual plan. You will need to consult your plan benefits for confirmation of what is covered.