



Medicare Annual Wellness Visit Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Medicare Annual Wellness Visit?

The Medicare Annual Wellness Visit (Annual Wellness Visit) is a preventative health benefit available to you after having Medicare Part B coverage for at least one year. A registered nurse or eligible provider reviews your health status and helps you make a plan for health and wellness needs. In most cases, the Annual Wellness Visit with the registered nurse will be followed by a separate medical visit with your primary care provider to close any healthcare gaps and address any problems identified during the visit.

Why are Annual Wellness Visits important?

The Annual Wellness Visit provides the opportunity to:

- Review your health history
- Identify any health risks
- Focus on prevention and wellness
- Review immunizations or healthcare screenings (such as colonoscopy or lab work)
- Review depression, malnutrition and other conditions

The Annual Wellness Visit allows the registered nurse to focus on prevention, which then allows your primary care provider more time to focus on your medical concerns and needs after the visit.

How often can an Annual Wellness Visit be scheduled?

During the second year of Medicare Part B coverage and every year after, a patient may have one Annual Wellness Visit each year.

Fee for service Medicare (ACO) patients need to wait until the first day of the same month in which they had the visit the previous year. For example, if they had their AWW 12/21 last year, they can have their AWW as early as 12/1 this year.

Medicare Advantage patients can have an AWW each calendar year. In theory, they could have one in December and then another in September. Ideally, visits should be spread out to about a year.

How is an Annual Wellness Visit scheduled?

If you are due for an Annual Wellness Visit, you may be prompted to self-schedule the visit in the patient portal. You also may call the number for your care team and ask to be scheduled for an Annual Wellness Visit.

If your Annual Wellness Visit is with a registered nurse, it is recommended to schedule this visit before the visit with your primary care provider. This allows your primary care provider the opportunity to address any concerns mentioned in the visit with the registered nurse.

How can you prepare for your Annual Wellness Visit?

You may be asked to complete some questionnaires prior to arriving for your appointment. The questionnaires will be sent to your patient portal account. If you are unable to access the questionnaires beforehand, plan to arrive at your appointment early to complete them.

It is helpful to come prepared to your Annual Wellness Visit with the following information:

- All medications or a current list of medications, vitamins and supplements, and include how much and how often you take them
- Additional medical records, including immunization records
- Dates of your most recent preventive services (such as a colonoscopy or mammogram) completed by another healthcare facility
- Family health history (include as much detail as possible)
- A list of current medical providers and suppliers who provide care, equipment or services for you

What can you expect during an Annual Wellness Visit?

During the Annual Wellness Visit, you will meet with a registered nurse or qualified provider to:

- Review your medical and family history
- Measure your height and weight, check your blood pressure and determine your body mass index (BMI)
- Review medications, supplements and vitamins you are currently taking
- Assess your health risks
- Assess your mobility and level of safety in your home, including any fall risks
- Screen for cognitive impairment and for depression
- Discuss healthcare providers you currently see and healthcare services you use
- Learn about recommended preventive services, educational opportunities and referrals, as needed

What is the cost of an Annual Wellness Visit?

Medicare offers the Annual Wellness Visit at no cost for those who have Medicare Part B coverage for at least one year prior to the visit. If you are referred for other tests or services, they will be billed to your insurance. If you have a separate visit with your primary care provider following your Annual Wellness Visit, you or your insurance carrier will be responsible for the cost of that visit.

Prevention is an important part of your healthcare. Thank you for taking time to focus on your health and wellness.