

Dear Patient,

We want you to receive wellness health care that may lower your risk of illness or injury and are providing you with this overview of Medicare coverage to assist you in getting the most from your benefits.

Medicare covers the following wellness services:

- “Welcome to Medicare” exam, which is wellness visit that occurs only once during your first twelve months as a Medicare patient
- Annual Wellness Visit, which may occur after you have been with Medicare for more than 11 months and then annually.

At these Medicare-covered wellness visits, your doctor will:

- Talk to you about your medical history
- Review your risk factors
- Update your medical record
- Record your height, weight, and vital signs,
- Establish a personalized prevention plan to keep you healthy.

These visits are **not** the same thing as what many people often refer to as their yearly physical exam. Medicare is very specific about what these services include and exclude.

Very limited lab work and other testing may be covered. At a wellness visit, Medicare will not pay for a hands-on exam or any discussion about new or current medical problems or conditions. If you need this type of service, you may schedule another visit to address these health issues. If additional services are provided at the same appointment as your annual wellness visit, your doctor is required to charge the usual Medicare fees that are not covered in the wellness visit.

If you would like to schedule an annual physical, including any lab work or other diagnostic testing, medication management, and other services, these services will be charged, and you may need to pay for these additional services – either in full or with a copay depending on your Medicare coverage.

We appreciate the trust you put in us to take care of your health care needs and hope that you will take advantage of this Medicare benefit to work with your physician in creating your personalized prevention plan.