



To: Our Medicare Patients:

Subject: Medicare Annual Wellness and Other Preventive Visits

Beginning January 1, 2011, Medicare covers an “Annual Wellness Visit” in addition to the one-time “Welcome to Medicare” exam. The “Welcome to Medicare” exam occurs only once during your first twelve months as a Medicare patient. You may receive your Annual Wellness Visit after you have been with Medicare for more than one year, or it has been at least one year since your “Welcome to Medicare” exam.

Initial Preventive Physical Exam (IPPE)	“Welcome to Medicare” is only for <i>new</i> Medicare patients. This must be done in the 1 st year as a Medicare patient.
Annual Wellness Visit, Initial	At least 1 yr after the “Welcome to Medicare” exam.
Annual Wellness Visit, Subsequent	Once a year (more than 1 yr + 1 day after the last Wellness Visit).

The Annual Wellness Visit is not the same thing as what many people often refer to as their yearly physical exam. Medicare is very specific about what the “Annual Wellness Visit” includes and excludes.

At the Annual Wellness Visit, your doctor will talk to you about your medical history, review your risk factors, and make a personalized prevention plan to keep you healthy. The visit does *not* include a hands-on exam or any testing that your doctor may recommend, nor does it include any discussion about any new or current medical problems, conditions, or medications. You may schedule another visit to address those issues *or* your doctor may charge the usual Medicare fees for such services that are beyond the scope of the Annual Wellness Visit.

If you would like to schedule an annual physical, including any lab work or other diagnostic testing, medication management, vaccinations, and other services, please understand that these services will be charged and covered according to Medicare’s usual coverage guidelines. However, you may still develop a care plan based on the Annual Wellness Visit criteria.

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 new benefit to work with your physician in creating your personalized prevention plan.

See the attached list to bring with you to your appointment.

What you should bring to your Annual Wellness Visit:

The names of all your doctors:

Name	Specialty

A list of all your medications

Name of medicine	Dose (if you remember)

Have any of your close relatives had any health changes? ___ Yes ___ No

Has your mood changed? ___ Yes ___ No

Do you worry about falling? ___ Yes ___ No

Are you worried about your memory? ___ Yes ___ No

Are there any preventive tests you have done recently?
(such as lab tests, mammograms, x-rays) ___ Yes ___ No

Have you had any recent immunizations? ___ Yes ___ No

Do you have a living will or advance directive?
(If you have one, *please bring a copy of it with you.*) ___ Yes ___ No