



Information about Annual Medicare Wellness Visits

In recent years, Medicare has added new “Preventive Medicine Visits”. If you are new to Medicare, within the first 12 months, Medicare now covers a “Welcome to Medicare” visit. If you have been enrolled longer than 12 months, Medicare covers an “Annual Wellness Visit”. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of these benefits as they are of NO COST to you unless other acute (e.g. colds, injuries, etc.) or chronic conditions (e.g. high blood pressure, diabetes, etc.) are addressed at this visit. **If new or active chronic health problems are addressed during your visit, then it would be appropriate to bill a separate charge consistent with a regular office visit.**

Therefore, we want to make sure you are aware that Medicare Preventive visits are not “Physicals” as many of us have come to use the term. The goals are HEALTH PROMOTION and DISEASE PREVENTION. This visit is more of a conversation and counseling with a physical exam determined by your past medical and family history. It does NOT include addressing current or chronic conditions but DOES include:

- Counseling about preventive services, including certain screenings, shots, and referrals for other care, if needed
- A physical exam to check height, weight, blood pressure measurements, and vision
- A review of your potential risk for depression and your level of safety
- An offer to talk with you about creating advanced directives
- Developing or updating a list of current providers and prescriptions
- Personalized health prevention advice
- A list of risk factors and treatment options for you
- A written plan letting you know which screenings, shots, and other preventive services you may need

Medicare requires that all these elements be completed by your provider for them to pay for the visit. As you might guess, this visit takes a fair amount of time, which is why the visit is 100% focused on screening and prevention. This visit gives your provider another opportunity to assess your health and get to know you better as a patient. If you have other new or active chronic problems that need to be addressed at this preventive visit, a separate charge will be applied. **We hope this clarifies this important distinction between regular and preventive office visits and billing requirements. We look forward to helping you maximize your health and quality of life!**

Sincerely,

Your Healthcare Team

I understand I will be billed if new or active chronic conditions are addressed at my Preventive visits.

Printed Name

Signature

Date

EAST BAY FAMILY PRACTICE

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