

## Explanation About Billing Charges for Your Preventive Visit

A **Preventive Exam (Well Visit)** is a specific type of appointment to address disease preventative and recommend screening care depending on age, gender, and risk factors. Examples of screening care include discussion of vaccines, mammograms, pap smears, colonoscopies, birth control, and screening laboratory tests including screening for sexually transmitted infections. The Preventive Exam is not meant to evaluate, diagnose, or treat existing health problems.

A **Problem Oriented** visit includes the diagnosis, management, and treatment of temporary or ongoing problems. Examples of a problem-oriented visit can include colds, injuries, rashes, hypertension, insomnia, depression, diabetes, and abnormal bleeding.

These 2 types of services are distinct. Medicare and insurance companies treat them as distinct appointment types even if they occur during the same visit. We must document and code separately for each type of service that we perform. This may mean that at the time of your Preventive Exam, if discussion and management of problems occur, you may be charged a co-pay for the problem-oriented part of your visit. We do not have the option of writing off a visit code. We also do not have the option of writing off your copayment as we are contractually and legally obligated by Medicare or your insurance company to bill and collect them.

We try to avoid this complication by scheduling preventive visits when problems are under control and have already been recently addressed. However, frequently problem discussions arise during preventive visits. If time allows, we are happy to address them. In those cases, we are required to bill both services. Additionally, if lab services are provided and found to be related to a medical condition, you may receive a lab bill as it may be considered non-preventive.

I understand and agree to the conditions above.

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Printed Name

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Signature

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Date

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