

Office Visit

News for health care providers



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What you need to know: Medicare annual wellness visits and preventive physical exams

ConnectiCare Medicare members are eligible for one annual wellness visit (AWV) and one preventive physical exam per calendar year. Both services can be done during the same office visit. [Here's how you code them properly.](#)

The differences

An AWV allows providers to review a patient's health status and create a

personalized preventive care plan. The AWV can also address care coordination, costs and gaps in care. The AWV can include assessments of the patient's health risks, cognitive function, functional screening, medication reconciliation and other risk factors.

An AWV can also include the following:

- Mental health screening, using screening tests recognized by national medical professional groups, such as PHQ-2 or PHQ-9.
- And, other preventive screening referrals based on gaps in care, such as those for colon cancer, breast cancer and bone mineral density.

It's important to note that an AWV can be performed by a licensed medical professional who works under the direct supervision of a physician, such as a health educator or registered dietitian. The AWV does not have to be done by a physician.

On the other hand, an annual preventive physical exam must be performed by a licensed physician. This exam allows a head-to-toe assessment with a comprehensive exam that may include lab testing, immunizations and preventive screening referrals.

We ask PCPs to remind patients that they are only covered for **one physical exam with no cost-share per calendar year**. If patients undergo another physical exam in the same calendar year – for example from their ob/gyns – they may be charged a cost-share.

New Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program goes into effect April 1

The [Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program](#) (MDPP) starts April 1 for beneficiaries who have been diagnosed with prediabetes. And, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is looking for interested suppliers.

The program works to help prevent the onset of type 2 diabetes through structured sessions with a coach, using a curriculum approved by the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention. The training includes dietary change, increased physical activity and weight loss strategies. Eligible Medicare beneficiaries can participate without a cost-share.

If you're interested in being a program supplier, let us know by contacting your network relations account manager. Here's an [overview of the program](#).

Has any of your information changed? Let us know.

Check our [provider directory](#) to make sure we have the right information for you and your practice. Our members rely on our provider directory to find doctors like you quickly and easily.

Relevant changes include your:

- tax ID number
- national provider identification (NPI)
- address
- phone number
- office hours
- ability to accept new patients

Submit any changes by filling out our [provider information update form](#) and sending it back to us as noted on the form.

Recent provider headlines

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- [New reimbursement policy for unlisted CPT code 32999](#)
- [A reminder about observation treatment of our Medicare Advantage members](#)
- [CMS to mail new Medicare cards starting April 2018](#)
- [Medicare preauthorization form for Part B drug benefit now available](#)
- [Bone density screening no longer requires preauthorization](#)

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