



Review of Opioid Use during the Initial Preventive Physical Examination (IPPE) and Annual Wellness Visit (AWV)

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This MLN Matters® Special Edition (SE) article 18004 is intended to emphasize the existing policy for eligible health care professionals who furnish the AWV to Medicare beneficiaries.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Medicare covers the following services for Medicare patients that meet certain eligibility requirements:

- The Initial Preventive Physical Examination (IPPE) (also known as the “Welcome to Medicare” Preventive Visit)
- The Annual Wellness Visit (AWV).

These preventive benefits allow you to assess your patients’ health on an annual basis to help you determine if they have any risk factors and if they are eligible for other preventive services and screenings that Medicare covers.

These preventive benefits are a great way for you to detect illnesses in their earliest stages when treatment works best. For example, review of opioid use as an important routine aspect of the patient’s medical history is helpful in diagnosing and then treating as appropriate opioid use disorders (OUD). CMS information on reducing opioid misuse is available at <https://www.cms.gov/about-cms/story-page/reducing-opioid-misuse.html>.

Note: Please check the physician fee schedule for the exact amount of reimbursement for your locality and setting. The physician fee schedule is available at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/PFSlookup/index.html>.

The Initial Preventative Physical Exam IPPE (“Welcome to Medicare” Preventive Visit)

Medicare covers an IPPE for all patients who are newly enrolled in Medicare Part B.

- The patient must receive this service within the first 12 months after the effective date of their Medicare Part B coverage.
- The IPPE is a one-time benefit.
- The IPPE consists of the following:
 - Review the patient’s medical and social history (*Medicare would like to emphasize that review of opioid use is a routine component of this element, including OUD. If a patient is using opioids, assess the benefit from other, non-opioid pain therapies instead, even if the patient does not have OUD but is possibly at risk.*)
 - Review potential risk factors for depression and other mood disorders
 - Review functional ability and level of safety
 - Measurement of height, weight, body mass index (BMI), and visual acuity screening
 - End-of-life planning (upon agreement of the individual)
 - Education, counseling and referral based on the review of previous 5 components
 - Education, counseling and referral for other preventive services, including a brief written plan such as a checklist

For more information about the IPPE, please see “Quick Reference Information: The ABCs of the IPPE” at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/MPS_QRI_IPPE001a.pdf.

The AWV or Annual Wellness Visit

Medicare covers an annual AWV for patients:

- Who are no longer within 12 months of the effective date of their first Part B coverage period and
- Who have not gotten either an IPPE or AWV within the previous 12 months.

Medicare pays for only one **first** AWV. Medicare will pay for a **subsequent** AWV for each patient annually. **Note:** The elements in first and subsequent AWVs, and the codes to bill them, are different.

- The first AWV includes the following elements:
 - A health risk assessment
 - Establishment of a current list of provider and suppliers

- Review of medical and family history (*Medicare would like to emphasize that review of opioid use is a routine component of this element, including OUD. If a patient is using opioids, assess the benefit from other, non-opioid pain therapies instead, even if the patient does not have OUD but is possibly at risk.*)
- Measurement of height, weight, BMI, and blood pressure
- Review of potential risk factors for depression and other mood disorders
- Review of functional ability and level of safety
 - Detection of any cognitive impairment the patient may have
 - Establishment of a written screening schedule (such as a checklist)
 - Establishment of a list of risk factors
 - Provision of personalized health advice and referral to appropriate health education or other preventive services.
- Subsequent AWWs include the following elements:
 - Review of updated health risk assessment;
 - Update medical and family history (**As mentioned above, Medicare would like to include opioid use in the ‘Review of Medical and Family History’ element of the AWW. Providers are encouraged to pay close attention to opioid use during this element of the AWW. If a patient is using opioids, assess the benefit from other, non-opioid pain therapies instead, even if the patient does not have OUD but is possibly at risk.**)
 - Update of list of current providers and suppliers;
 - Measurement of weight and blood pressure;
 - Detection of cognitive impairment the patient may have;
 - Update of the written screening schedule (such as a checklist);
 - Update of the list of risk factors; and
 - Provision of personalized health advice and referral to appropriate health education or other preventive services.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Medicare Learning Network® has published a variety of additional educational material on Medicare-covered Preventive Services, including:

- The Preventive Services MLN page: <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/PreventiveServices.html>

- MLN Matters® Articles Related to Medicare-Covered Preventive Benefits
<http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/MLNPrevArticles.pdf>
- THE ABCs OF THE ANNUAL WELLNESS VISIT (AWV):
https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/AWV_chart_ICN905706.pdf
- THE ABCs OF THE INITIAL PREVENTIVE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION (IPPE):
https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/MPS_QRI_IPPE001a.pdf
- MLN Matters article SE1604 Medicare Coverage of Substance Abuse Services:
<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/downloads/se1604.pdf>

For general information about Medicare-covered preventive services, visit the CMS Prevention page at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/PrevntionGenInfo/index.html>. For information to share with your Medicare patients, please visit <http://www.medicare.gov>.

Additional details on the AWV are available in the Medicare Benefit Policy Manual, Chapter 15, Section 280.5 at <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/bp102c15.pdf>.

If you have questions, your MACs may have more information. Find their website at <http://go.cms.gov/MAC-website-list>.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

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