

Medicare Share

By your AmeriCorps CLAIM Medicare Counselor Kori Ross

As a caregiver it is important to take care of yourself. Did you know there is a list of preventative services covered under your Medicare part B coverage through original Medical? If you have a Medicare Advantage plan, you also have preventative coverage through these plans.

One of these services is a preventative visit, or a yearly wellness visit. Depending on how long you have been enrolled in Medicare will determine which one applies to you. If you have been on Medicare less than 12 months, you may get a one-time “Welcome to Medicare” preventative visit. If you have been on Medicare for longer than 12 months, you may get yearly “Wellness visits”.

You pay nothing for the “Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit or the yearly “Wellness” visit if your doctor or other qualified health care provider accepts assignment. The Part B deductible does not apply.

However, you may have to pay coinsurance. In addition, the Part B deductible may apply if your doctor, or other health care provider performs additional tests, or services during the same visit. These additional tests, or services are not covered under the preventive benefits.

For a full list of preventative services, you can find them on [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov), Medicare and You 2017 book, or by calling the Shepherd Center Central and speaking with a Medicare counselor at 816-444-1121, or 816-753-7039.