

Understanding Medicare Wellness Visits: Initial Annual Wellness Visit

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Providers can encourage use of preventive services and help promote early detection of diseases at no cost to their patients through the following Medicare wellness visits: the initial preventive physical exam (IPPE), the initial annual wellness visit (AWV), and subsequent AWVs. Watch this [brief video](#) to learn about each visit.

During the initial AWV, the provider performs a health risk assessment (HRA) and develops a personalized prevention plan (PPP) with patients. It is covered once per lifetime in the first year of Medicare enrollment. After the initial AWV is performed, subsequent AWVs can be offered every 12 months to review and update the HRA and PPP developed in the initial visit.



Review this [flyer](#) to learn more about the initial AWV, subsequent AWVs, and the IPPE, including their purpose and requirements for submitting claims.

Who Can Perform an AWV?

Medicare Part B covers an AWV if performed by a:

- Physician (a Doctor of Medicine or Osteopathy)
- Qualified Non-Physician Practitioner (Physician Assistant, Nurse Practitioner, or Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist)
- Medical professional, including a health educator, registered dietitian, nutrition professional, or other licensed practitioner; or a team of medical professionals directly supervised by a physician

Evidence suggests HRA use and follow-up interventions can positively influence health behaviors. Visit the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services website](#) for detailed information on the initial AWV, its components, and billing.