

A Pharmacist's Guide to:

Medicare Annual Wellness Visits

Provided by:



Licensed Practitioners

Medicare Annual Wellness Visits may be provided by licensed practitioners, including pharmacists, who are working under the direct supervision of a physician. The supervising physician or non-physician practitioner must be present in the office and available to provide assistance throughout the visit, but they do not have to be in the room where the visit is being conducted.

Provided to:



Patient Eligibility

After 12 months of Medicare coverage patients are eligible for an Annual Wellness Visit annually. The first Annual Wellness Visit is billed as the Initial Visit and the ones following annually are billed as the Subsequent Visits.

Why Pharmacists?



A Cornerstone of the Annual Wellness Visit is the review of all medications taken by the patient, prescription and nonprescription.



As medication experts, pharmacists are uniquely positioned to resolve medication related problems and compile a complete and reconciled medication list.



Pharmacists are trained and qualified to provide chronic disease management services, assess preventive therapy needs, and promote overall wellness.

Components of an Annual Wellness Visit



Update/Review Patient history--medical, surgical, social, and family histories
Current medication list and immunization record



Assess Vitals including blood pressure, pulse, height, weight, BMI



Screenings Depression, functional ability, hearing impairment, ability to perform activities of daily living, fall risk, home safety, cognitive impairment



Establish Current list of providers and suppliers (physicians, pharmacies, etc)
List of risk factors



Provide Individualized health advice or referral (i.e. smoking cessation, weight loss, fall prevention)
Written screening schedule for 5-10 years



Physical Exam Not required

Billing for an AWW

First Visit

Use billing code G0438 with the short descriptor: "Annual Wellness first"

Subsequent Visits

Use billing code G0439 with the short descriptor: "Annual Wellness subseq"

Other Medicare Part B Preventive Services

- Bone mass measurements
- Cardiovascular screening blood tests
- Counseling to prevent tobacco use for asymptomatic patients
- Diabetes screening tests
- Diabetes self-management training
- HIV screening
- Intensive behavioral therapy for cardiovascular disease and/or obesity
- Influenza, pneumococcal and hepatitis B vaccinations
- Screening for depression
- Others!

About the Colorado Pharmacists Society

Colorado Pharmacists Society improves patient care and public health by advancing and supporting the professional practice of pharmacy while serving as the voice of pharmacy in Colorado. Please be sure to see the CPS website, www.copharm.org under the advocacy tab to learn more about current initiatives.