

## Wellness Care—Orientation

**Get oriented** – Even if you’re already providing annual wellness visits (AWV) or similar services, especially if they are for other payers (beyond traditional Medicare), it might worthwhile to review AWV requirements under Medicare fee-for-service – as other payers may have expectations that differ from Medicare fee-for-service requirements. This would include review of the Initial Preventive Physical Exam (the “Welcome to Medicare” visit – a distinct service), the initial AWV, and subsequent AWV. Practices will also want to be familiar with rules for other services that can be provided on the same day as the AWV.

### Review the following

- 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](https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/MPS_QRI_IPPE001a.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](https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/AWV_chart_ICN905706.pdf)
- Frequently Asked Questions:  
<https://www.cms.gov/outreach-and-education/outreach/npc/downloads/ippe-awv-faqs.pdf>

You may find that your practice is already providing care services described under the AWV – sometimes at irregular intervals and associated with problem-focused visits. Increasing the use of AWV will allow you to:

- Consolidate preventive care and routine screening activities into dedicated visits, rather than trying to tack these services onto problem-focused visits. Over time, you may find that problem-focused visits actually become more efficient, focused, and predictable – as preventive care needs have already been addressed.
- Provide preventive care and screening according to a schedule, rather than according the happenstance of patients presenting for other care services.
- Standardize your approach to preventive care planning and routine screening, manage workload among a care team.
- Have a visit dedicated to better understanding your patients’ needs and building the relationship between them and your care team.

**You may also be interested in scanning the following:**

- Transitional Care Management Services:  
<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/Transitional-Care-Management-Services-Fact-Sheet-ICN908628.pdf>
- Chronic Care Management (updated for 2017):  
<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/ChronicCareManagement.pdf>
- Advance Care Planning:  
<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/AdvanceCarePlanning.pdf>

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