

## The Annual Wellness Visit: Preventive Care for Your Medicare Advantage Patients

You know how important the Annual Wellness Visit (AWV) is to improve your patients' health outcomes. That's why it's important to schedule your Florida Blue Medicare Advantage patients for this visit.

The AWV is an ideal time to address your patient's conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes. Discussing medication adherence, fall risk prevention, urinary incontinence, and mental health (e.g., depression, anxiety) also helps ensure better health outcomes for your patients. It's also a good time to help set them up for their needed screenings such as colon and breast cancer, diabetic retinal exams or other needed exams and/or tests.

Your Florida Blue Medicare Advantage patients are covered for their AWV as well as a wide range of preventive care and screenings at no cost to them. This includes those mentioned above as well as pneumonia, flu and hepatitis B vaccines. A routine physical, however, is not covered by Medicare or Florida Blue Medicare.

It's important you use the correct procedure code when filing your AWV claims. Procedure codes and descriptions of each are included in the table below.

HCPCS Codes	Billing Code Description
G0402	<b>Initial Preventive Physical Examination (IPPE)* or Welcome to Medicare Visit*:</b> This code can only be billed when services are provided during the first 12 months the patient is enrolled in Medicare Part B; deductible and coinsurance are waived. Medicare pays for only one IPPE per beneficiary per lifetime.
G0438	<b>Annual wellness visit (AWV)*, includes a personalized prevention plan of service, initial visit:</b> This code can only be used for those beneficiaries who are <i>no longer in the first 12-month period</i> after their Medicare Part B coverage effective date and have not received an IPPE during the first 12 months of coverage. Medicare pays for <i>one AWV per beneficiary per lifetime</i> . Subsequent wellness visits must be billed as a <b>subsequent AWV</b> using procedure code G0439.
G0439	<b>Annual wellness visit, includes a personalized prevention plan of service (PPS), subsequent visit:</b> This code should be used in the subsequent years to submission of an annual wellness visit, even if the patient switches to a new physician.

When your Florida Blue Medicare patients arrive for their visit, please consider asking them to complete our **pre-visit health checklist**. This checklist addresses their perception of their care, services and health care plan. Learn more about this and print the pre-visit health checklist from a recent article we published [here](#).

Ensuring your Florida Blue Medicare Advantage patients access their preventive services can help keep them emotionally, physically and financially healthy. Now that's a great outcome!

Florida Blue is a PPO, RPPO and Rx (PDP) plan with a Medicare contract. Florida Blue Medicare is an HMO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Florida Blue or Florida Blue Medicare depends on contract renewal. Health coverage is offered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc., DBA Florida Blue. HMO coverage is offered by Florida Blue Medicare, Inc., DBA Florida Blue Medicare. These companies are affiliates of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc., and are Independent Licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.