

What is the Annual Wellness Visit?

The **Annual Wellness Visit (AWV)** is a yearly appointment with your primary care provider to create or update a personalized prevention plan. This plan may help prevent illness based on your current health and risk factors. Keep in mind that the AWV is not a head-to-toe physical. Also, this service is similar to but separate from the one-time **Welcome to Medicare preventive visit**. Your personalized prevention plan may include: height, weight, blood pressure measurements; a health risk assessment; medical and family history; screen for cognitive impairment; create a 5-10 year screening schedule/check-list, provide health advice and referrals to preventive counseling services.

Original Medicare covers the Annual Wellness Visit at 100% of the Medicare-approved amount when you receive the service from a participating provider. This means you pay nothing (no deductible or coinsurance). Medicare Advantage Plans are required to cover AWVs without applying deductibles, copayments, or coinsurance when you see an in-network provider and meet Medicare's requirements for the service. Contact your healthcare provider if you want to schedule your Annual Wellness Visit!

Know how to detect inappropriate charges or errors for your preventive care.

- Detect errors or fraudulent charges by carefully reviewing your health care statements from Medicare or your Medicare Advantage Plan.
- If you think you were charged for a preventive service and should not have been, contact your health care provider first.
 - Claim summaries and medical bills can be confusing, so it is usually a good idea to ask your provider questions before reporting activity as potentially fraudulent. If you alert them to an error, the billing office should be able to correct it.
- If you still believe you have experienced potential fraud or abuse, or have additional questions, contact your local SMP office. SMPs are trained to help you prevent, detect, and report health care fraud, errors, and abuse.

Reporting Medicare fraud: If you think you have spotted fraud, report it right away. ND SMP will help seniors prevent, detect and report Medicare fraud. If you see anything suspicious, contact the ND SMP at ndsmp@minotstateu.edu or call 1-800-233-1737 or 701-858-3580. For non-Medicare fraud issues, contact the ND Attorney General's Office at 1-800S-472-2600.

The information provided is intended to be a general summary only. Source of information: Medicare Rights Center. *March 2022 Medicare Minute and Dear Marci What is the Annual Wellness Visit?* (Mar 2022). Retrieved from: dearmarci@medicarerights.org

North Dakota Senior Medicare Patrol Phone: 800-233-1737 or (701) 858-3580

For more information or to locate your SMP, visit <https://ndcpd.org/smp/>

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