



# Allied Healthcare

A S S O C I A T E S

**To: Our Medicare Patients**

**Subject: Medicare Annual Wellness and Other Preventative Visits**

Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011, Medicare covers and “Annual Wellness Visit” in addition to the one-time “Welcome to Medicare” exam. The “Welcome to Medicare” exam occurs only during your first twelve months as a Medicare patient. You may receive your Annual Wellness Visit after you have been with Medicare for more than one year, or it has been at least one year since your “Welcome to Medicare” exam.

<b>Initial Preventative Physical Exam (IPPE)</b>	“Welcome to Medicare” is only for <i>new</i> Medicare patients. This must be done in the first year as a Medicare patient.
<b>Annual Wellness Visit, Initial</b>	At least 1 year after the “Welcome to Medicare” exam
<b>Annual Wellness Visit, Subsequent</b>	Once a year (more than 1 year + 1 day after the last Wellness visit).

The Annual Wellness Visit is not the same thing as what many people often refer to as their yearly physical exam. Medicare is very specific about what the “Annual Wellness Visit” includes and excludes.

At the Annual Wellness Visit, your doctor will talk to you about your medical history, review your risk factors, and make a personalized prevention plan to keep you healthy. The visit does *not* include a hands-on exam or any testing that your doctor may recommend, nor does it include any discussion about any new or current medical problems, conditions or medications. You may schedule another visit to address those issues or your doctor may charge the usual Medicare fees for such services that are beyond the scope of the Annual Wellness Visit.

If you could like to schedule an annual physical, including any lab work or other diagnostic testing, medical management, vaccinations, or other services, please understand that these services will be charged and covered according to Medicare’s usual coverage guidelines. However, you may still develop a care plan based on the Annual Wellness Visit criteria.

We appreciate the trust you put in us to take care of your health care needs and hope that you will take advantage of this new benefit to work with your physician in creating your personalized prevention plan

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Sign

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Today’s Date