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Dear Patient,

Your Medicare insurance coverage now pays for visits with your health care professional to review the preventive services that can help keep you healthy. There are three types of preventive services visits:

1. Initial Preventive Physical Exam (IPPE)	“Welcome to Medicare” is only for <i>new</i> Medicare patients. This must be done within 1 year after Medicare enrollment.
2. Annual Wellness Visit, Initial	At least 1 yr after the “Welcome to Medicare” exam.
3. Annual Wellness Visit, Subsequent	Once a year (more than 1 yr + 1 day after the last Wellness Visit).

The Annual Wellness Visit is not the same thing as a yearly physical exam. The Annual Wellness Visit focuses on gathering your health information and counseling you on improving your health and preventing complications from any illnesses you may currently have. Medicare is very specific about what the “Annual Wellness Visit” offers.

At the Annual Wellness Visit, your health care professional will talk to you about your medical history, review your risk factors, and provide a written personalized prevention plan to help keep you healthy. The visit does *not* include a hands-on exam. Also, any discussion about any new or current medical problems, conditions, or medications is not included; however, you may schedule another visit to address those issues immediately following your Annual Wellness Visit, or on another day. The Annual Wellness Visit is covered by your Medicare insurance, but if your health care provider schedules an annual physical exam, you will be charged for any portion of the exam not usually covered by your Medicare insurance.

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.

Please fill out the included documents and bring them with you to your appointment. In addition, please bring a list of all your doctors and all of your medications (both prescribed and over-the-counter) and supplements that you take. You can use Page 2 of this letter to make these lists.

Thank you,

