

HCC Department Coding Newsletter

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MONTHLY CODING SPOTLIGHT



THE ANNUAL DOCTOR VISIT

The annual wellness visit (AWV) and the physical exam (PE), both yearly services may be performed on the same day or not, providing all elements are met and documented. The comparison chart will help define the elements and sort the differences.

Annual Wellness Visit

(HCPCS: G0438 & G0439)

- **Brief History**
 - Medical
 - Family History
- **Vitals**
 - Blood Pressure
 - Height
 - Weight
 - BMI (body mass index)
- **Screenings**
 - Functional Status
 - Pain
 - Medication Review
 - Advance Directives
 - Fall Risk/Safety
 - Cognitive Impairment
 - Depression

Annual Physical Exam

(CPT 99385-99397)

- **Comprehensive History**
 - Medical
 - Family
 - Social
- **Vitals**
- **Comprehensive Exam**
 - General Appearance
 - Heart
 - Lung
 - Head and Neck
 - Abdominal
 - Neurological
 - Dermatological
 - Extremities
- **Orders**
 - Immunizations
 - Laboratory/Diagnostic

THE DOCTOR VISIT FACTS



- Any qualified physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant may perform these services
- A preventative care examination and an E/M level service may be billed together with modifier 25
- Provider documentation must support all required elements of both services when billing together on the same date of service
- The annual wellness visit (AWV) includes Personalized Prevention Plan Services (PPPS)
- G0402: Welcome to Medicare exam within the first 12 months of the effective date of Medicare Part B coverage and covered only once per lifetime
- G0438: AWV is for the initial visit and covered only once in a member's lifetime
- G0439: AWV is for all subsequent visits
- The AWV is a non co-pay/deductible benefit
- While the annual physical exam is not a covered service for Medicare Part B members, under payer specific guidelines it is covered for Arizona Priority Care members
- These annual services serve as an opportunity to capture chronic conditions each year