



THE ABCs OF THE INITIAL PREVENTIVE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION (IPPE)



Target Audience: Medicare Fee-For-Service Program
(also known as Original Medicare)

The Hyperlink Table, at the end of this document,
provides the complete URL for each hyperlink.

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The Initial Preventive Physical Examination (IPPE) is also known as the “Welcome to Medicare Preventive Visit.” The goals of the IPPE are health promotion, disease prevention, and detection.

Medicare pays for one IPPE per beneficiary per lifetime for beneficiaries within the first 12 months of the effective date of the beneficiary’s first Medicare Part B coverage period.

This publication explains the elements in the IPPE. You must provide all components of the IPPE prior to submitting a claim for the service.

NOTE: The IPPE is a separate service from the Annual Wellness Visit (AWV). For more information about the AWV, refer to the Medicare Learning Network’s® (MLN’s) [The ABCs of the Annual Wellness Visit \(AWV\) publication](#).

COMPONENTS OF THE IPPE

Acquire Beneficiary Information

Action	Elements
<input type="checkbox"/> Review the beneficiary’s medical and social history	At a minimum, collect information about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past medical/surgical history (experiences with illnesses, hospital stays, operations, allergies, injuries, and treatments) • Current medications and supplements (including calcium and vitamins) • Family history (review of medical events in the beneficiary’s family, including diseases that may be hereditary or place the beneficiary at risk) • History of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug use • Diet • Physical activities
<input type="checkbox"/> Review the beneficiary’s potential risk factors for depression and other mood disorders	To obtain current or past experiences with depression or other mood disorders, use any appropriate screening instrument for beneficiaries without a current diagnosis of depression from various available standardized screening tests recognized by national professional medical organizations.

Acquire Beneficiary Information (cont.)

Action	Elements
<input type="checkbox"/> Review the beneficiary’s functional ability and level of safety	Use appropriate screening questions or standardized questionnaires recognized by national professional medical organizations to review, at a minimum, the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities of daily living • Fall risk • Hearing impairment • Home safety

Begin Examination and Discussion

Action	Elements
<input type="checkbox"/> Exam	Obtain the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Height, weight, body mass index, and blood pressure • Visual acuity screen • Other factors deemed appropriate based on the beneficiary’s medical and social history and current clinical standards
<input type="checkbox"/> End-of-life planning, on agreement of the beneficiary	End-of-life planning is verbal or written information provided to the beneficiary about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The beneficiary’s ability to prepare an advance directive in case an injury or illness causes the beneficiary to be unable to make health care decisions • Whether or not you are willing to follow the beneficiary’s wishes as expressed in an advance directive

Counsel Beneficiary

Action	Elements
<input type="checkbox"/> Educate, counsel, and refer based on the previous five components	Based on the results of the review and evaluation services in the previous components, provide education, counseling, and referral as appropriate.
<input type="checkbox"/> Educate, counsel, and refer for other preventive services	Includes a brief written plan, such as a checklist, for the beneficiary to obtain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A once-in-a-lifetime screening electrocardiogram (EKG/ECG), as appropriate • The appropriate screenings and other preventive services that Medicare covers

IPPE CODING, DIAGNOSIS, AND BILLING**Coding**

Use the following HCPCS codes to file claims for the IPPE and screening ECG.

IPPE HCPCS Codes and Descriptors

IPPE HCPCS Codes	Billing Code Descriptors
G0402	Initial preventive physical examination; face-to-face visit, services limited to new beneficiary during the first 12 months of Medicare enrollment
G0403	Electrocardiogram, routine ECG with 12 leads; performed as a screening for the initial preventive physical examination with interpretation and report
G0404	Electrocardiogram, routine ECG with 12 leads; tracing only, without interpretation and report, performed as a screening for the initial preventive physical examination
G0405	Electrocardiogram, routine ECG with 12 leads; interpretation and report only, performed as a screening for the initial preventive physical examination

Diagnosis

You must report a diagnosis code when submitting a claim for the IPPE. Since you are not required to document a **specific** diagnosis code for the IPPE, you may choose any diagnosis code consistent with the beneficiary's exam.

Billing

Medicare covers an IPPE when performed by a:

- Physician (a doctor of medicine or osteopathy)
- Qualified non-physician practitioner (a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or certified clinical nurse specialist)

When you furnish a significant, separately identifiable, medically necessary Evaluation and Management (E/M) service along with the IPPE, Medicare may pay for the additional service. Report the additional Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code (99201–99215) with modifier -25. That portion of the visit must be medically necessary to treat the beneficiary's illness or injury, or to improve the functioning of a malformed body member.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

What are the other Medicare Part B preventive services?

- Advance Care Planning (ACP) as an Optional Element of an AWW
- Alcohol Misuse Screening and Counseling
- AWW
- Bone Mass Measurements
- Cardiovascular Disease Screening
- Colorectal Cancer Screening
- Counseling to Prevent Tobacco Use
- Depression Screening
- Diabetes Screening
- Diabetes Self-Management Training (DSMT)
- Glaucoma Screening
- Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Screening
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Screening
- Influenza, Pneumococcal, and Hepatitis B Vaccinations and their Administration
- Intensive Behavioral Therapy (IBT) for Cardiovascular Disease (CVD), also known as a CVD risk reduction visit

- Intensive Behavioral Therapy (IBT) for Obesity
- Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT)
- Prostate Cancer Screening
- Screening for Cervical Cancer with Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Tests
- Screening for Lung Cancer with Low Dose Computed Tomography (LDCT)
- Screening for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and High Intensity Behavioral Counseling (HIBC) to Prevent STIs
- Screening Mammography
- Screening Pap Tests
- Screening Pelvic Examination (includes a clinical breast examination)
- Ultrasound Screening for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)

Visit the MLN's [Preventive Services Educational Tool](#) for additional resources on Medicare preventive services.

Is the IPPE the same as a beneficiary's yearly physical?

No. The IPPE is not a routine physical checkup that some seniors may get periodically from their physician or other qualified non-physician practitioner. The IPPE is an introduction to Medicare and covered benefits and focuses on health promotion and disease prevention and detection to help beneficiaries stay well. Medicare does not cover routine physical examinations.

Are clinical laboratory tests part of the IPPE?

No. The IPPE does not include any clinical laboratory tests, but you may make referrals for such tests as part of the IPPE, if appropriate.

Do deductible or coinsurance/copayment apply for the IPPE?

No. Medicare waives both the coinsurance/copayment and the Medicare Part B deductible for the IPPE (HCPCS code G0402). Neither is waived for the screening ECG (HCPCS codes G0403, G0404, or G0405).

If a beneficiary enrolls in Medicare in 2016, can he or she have the IPPE in 2017 if it was not performed in 2016?

A beneficiary who has not yet had an IPPE and whose initial enrollment in Medicare Part B began in 2016 is eligible for an IPPE in 2017 as long as it is done within 12 months of the beneficiary's first Medicare Part B enrollment effective date.

CMS suggests providers check with their Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) to see what options are available to verify beneficiary eligibility. Contact [your MAC](#) for more information.

RESOURCES

The [Medicare Preventive Services webpage](#) lists educational products for Medicare Fee-For-Service providers and their staff about preventive services, coverage, coding, billing, payment, and claim filing procedures.

IPPE Resources

Resource	Website
42 Code of Federal Regulations 410.16 (policy governing IPPE service)	GPO.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2016-title42-vol2/pdf/CFR-2016-title42-vol2-sec410-16.pdf
CMS Provider Minute: Preventive Services (pointers to help you submit correct documentation and avoid claim denials)	Youtube.com/watch?v=-tuMWM4KeZg&feature=youtu.be&list=PLaV7m2-zFKpigb1UvmCh1Q2cBK1SGk-V
Medicare Benefit Policy Manual	Chapter 15 CMS.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/bp102c15.pdf
Medicare Claims Processing Manual	Chapter 12, Section 30.6.1.1 CMS.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c12.pdf Chapter 18, Section 80 CMS.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c18.pdf
MLN Guided Pathways: Provider Specific Medicare Resources	CMS.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNEdWebGuide/Downloads/Guided_Pathways_Provider_Specific_Booklet.pdf

IPPE Resources (cont.)

Resource	Website
MLN Matters® Article MM9271, Advance Care Planning (ACP) as an Optional Element of an Annual Wellness Visit (AWV)	CMS.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM9271.pdf
MLN Matters Article SE1338, Improve Your Patients' Health with the Initial Preventive Physical Examination (IPPE) and Annual Wellness Visit (AWV)	CMS.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/SE1338.pdf
MLN Matters Articles on Medicare-covered Preventive Services	CMS.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/MLNPrevArticles.pdf
Preventive Services Educational Tool	CMS.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/CMS1243319.html
Resources for Medicare Beneficiaries	CMS.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/ICN905183.html

Hyperlink Table

Embedded Hyperlink	Complete URL
The ABCs of the Annual Wellness Visit (AWV) Publication	https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/CMS1246474.html
Medicare Preventive Services Webpage	https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/PrevntionGenInfo
Preventive Services Educational Tool	https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/PrevntionGenInfo/medicare-preventive-services/MPS-QuickReferenceChart-1.html
Your MAC	https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Monitoring-Programs/Medicare-FFS-Compliance-Programs/Review-Contractor-Directory-Interactive-Map

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