

Frequently Asked Questions

Medicare Visits



Thank you for choosing Virginia Mason. We are honored to be a partner in your health care and want to provide answers to common questions about Medicare Visits.

What is an Annual Wellness Visit?

The purpose for this type of visit is to review your current state of health and determine your risk for certain diseases. During this visit we will work with you to make a plan for how to stay well.

How is the Annual Wellness Visit different from other visits?

- It includes recommendations for screening tests (e.g. labs, X-rays) and vaccines depending on age and risk factors
- It includes education and counseling to promote wellness and reduce your risk for future health issues
- It includes discussion and review of your end of life directives (per Medicare requirement)
- It may include referrals for screenings or services outside of the appointment
- It **does not** include a complete physical or head to toe examination

When do I get it?

Your first Wellness Visit (“Welcome to Medicare” visit) is scheduled during the first 12 months you are enrolled in Medicare Part B. Annual Wellness Visits are scheduled once a year after your first visit

How is this visit paid for?

- Medicare covers an Annual Wellness Visit. This does not incur an out-of-pocket expense
- You may have a co-payment for some screening services
- If your provider orders non-screening labs or performs additional tests or services during the same visit that aren’t covered under these preventive benefits, you may have a co-payment and the Part B deductible may apply

What is not included in the Annual Wellness Services?

- Review of chronic medical conditions and related treatments; it is not a ‘physical’
- Evaluation of new health concerns. We would want to schedule another appointment if you are not feeling well or are concerned about a medical problem, to allow adequate time for evaluation
- Depending on your preferences and time allowances, these may be conducted at the same visit (but incur a separate charge), or may be conducted at a future visit

Questions? Contact Patient Financial Services at 206-223-6601 or 1-800-553-7803 or <http://virginiamason.org/billing>