

Understanding Your Medicare Preventive Benefits

Thank you for choosing Acton Medical Associates, PC to provide your primary care needs. This document was created to help you understand Medicare preventive care coverage guidelines, which can be confusing, and our policies regarding these services. We hope you find the “*Question and Answer*” format below helpful in explaining these types of services.

Does Acton Medical provide the one-time “Welcome to Medicare” preventive visit?

Yes. Medicare will pay for the initial “Welcome to Medicare” visit within the first 12 months of your Medicare Part B enrollment.

Does Acton Medical provide Medicare’s annual “Wellness” visit?

No. We provide complete annual physical exams. A “Wellness” visit is a conversation and questionnaire based service meant to create or update a personalized prevention plan. This service does not need to be performed by a physician and is most often administered by medical support staff. This is a **hands-off** visit and a physical exam is not part of this service. This causes confusion and can be frustrating for our patients. Acton Medical performs annual physicals as we believe this provides the best patient care and is in line with what our patients expect.

Does Acton Medical provide annual physical exams?

Yes. Our physicians perform complete annual physicals and believe this is an important service. A physical is an extensive examination including a head to toe, hands-on physical exam. Across our practice, our physicians believe this complete exam offers the best patient care for all of our patients.

What is my financial responsibility for an annual physical exam?

Medicare does not cover annual physicals. However, your cost may be reduced if the doctor has to evaluate and treat medical issue(s) beyond the scope of the physical exam. If a separate visit charge is applied, we will reduce the cost of the physical by the amount charged for the visit per Medicare guidelines. This reduces your out of pocket expense. Please phone our Patient Accounts Department at (978) 635-8432 if you have additional questions related to the cost of services.

**Additional Medicare preventive service coverage guidelines can be found at
<http://www.medicare.gov> or by phone at 1-800-633-4227.**



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