

Annual Wellness Visits (AWV) Reminders

The AWV is the most important method for influencing risk adjustment, attribution capture, and retention of beneficiaries for the Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP). Risk adjustment greatly contributes to the amount of shared savings or shared losses. Attribution capture contributes to maintaining a strong Qualifying Participant (QP) score to achieve the 5% bonus. Currently, the size of our MSSP ACO is 42,800 beneficiaries.

The best time to conduct the AWV is within the first part of the calendar year when possible. Medicare covers an AWV for beneficiaries who have met the following criteria:

- Are not within 12 months of the effective date of their first Medicare Part B coverage period
- Have not received an Initial Preventive Physical Examination (IPPE) or AWV within the past 12 months

Additional benefits from the AWV are:

- Identifies current health and risk factors with the health risk assessment (HRA) being the main focus
- Supports quality metric documentation
- Provides an opportunity to review patient's care plan
- Diminishes potential for patients to be cost outliers
- Ensures accurate documentation of patient risk levels through HCC coding

An AWV may be performed by any of the following:

- Physician (MD or DO)
- Qualified non-physician practitioner (PA, NP, CNS)
- Medical professional(s) who are directly supervised by a physician

As a reminder, an attributed beneficiary is assigned by identifying the provider's NPI that provided the past year's most primary-care based services. If you are a provider with attributed beneficiaries but do not conduct AWVs, it is extremely important to refer the beneficiary back to their PCP to complete their AWV as soon as possible within the criteria timeframe.

For additional AWV provider information, please click the following links:

AWV Checklist:

<https://www.scrippsaco.org/sparkle-assets/documents/annual-wellness-checklist.docx>

HRA:

<https://www.scrippsaco.org/sparkle-assets/documents/hra-patient-questionnaire.docx>

Sample Beneficiary Letter:

<https://www.scrippsaco.org/sparkle-assets/documents/annual-wellness-letter-for-beneficiary.docx>

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