

Anthem BlueCross

Routine Physical Exams Not Covered in 2014

Anthem's Medicare Advantage (MA) plans have been offering coverage for routine physicals (subject to plan benefits) to their members as an additional benefit in 2013, as well as the past years, even when not covered under Traditional Medicare. The Affordable Care Act created a benefit for Annual Wellness Visits (AWV) for Medicare beneficiaries and in response, Anthem has decided effective for dates of services on and after 01/01/2014, to **no longer cover Routine Physical Exams.**

The change to no longer cover routine physicals allows Anthem to align with the traditional Medicare offering for these services. The only exception may be customized Employer Group Retiree (EGR) plans which would have this benefit indicated in the members Evidence of Coverage benefit booklet.

Medicare Advantage plans will continue to provide benefits for the following Medicare covered services (subject to change as Medicare rules for services change):

- **Initial Preventive Physical Exam** (IPPE) also known as the "Welcome to Medicare Preventive Visit"
- **Annual Wellness Visit** (AWV)

These services are preventive focused and *should not be mistaken* for a routine physical. A list of the current HCPCS/CPT's/Descriptions, etc. associated with the IPPE and AWV (as well as all preventive services), can be found within Medicare's "Medicare Preventive Services Quick Reference Information" guide.

Routine Physical procedure codes Anthem MA plans will no longer be covering in 2014 include, but are not limited to:

- 99381 – 99387
- 99391 – 99397

The following resources can be referenced for more information on proper billing of the IPPE and AWV's:

- Link to the Medicare Quick Reference Guide. (Source: CMS Medicare Learning Network)
http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Prevention/PrevntionGenInfo/Downloads/MPS_QuickReferenceChart_1.pdf
- CMS regulations for the IPPE & AWV. (Source: CMS Internet Online Manuals)
Pub 100-04 Medicare Claims Processing Manual Chapter 18 - Preventive and Screening Services Table of Contents (Rev. 2575, 10-26-12)
<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c18.pdf>

- Link to CMS power point presentation on the IPPE & AWV. **Please see slide 16 & 30, which indicates the preventive services not covered by Medicare.** These will not be covered by Medicare Advantage plans. http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/downloads/ippe_awv_call_presentation.pdf

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