

# Alameda Alliance Wellness Measure Tip Sheet



## Preventive Care Visits – Initial Preventive Physical Exam (IPPE) and Annual Wellness Visit (AWV)

This tip sheet is part of the *Alliance Medicare Stars Guide: A Resource for Providers and Clinic Staff*. This tip sheet provides measure-specific guidance and coding tips for Medicare’s preventive visit benefits, including the Initial Preventive Physical Exam (IPPE) and Annual Wellness Visit (AWV), which support health promotion, early detection, and risk assessment, among other components.

For questions or more information, please email the Alliance Stars Team at [DeptStarsTeam@alamedaalliance.org](mailto:DeptStarsTeam@alamedaalliance.org).

**Methodology:** Medicare

**Measure Description:** Members enrolled in Alameda Alliance Wellness who had one (1) IPPE or AWV in the measurement year.

**Measure Population (denominator):** Members who are enrolled in Alameda Alliance Wellness.

**Measure Compliance (numerator):** Members in the denominator who receive an IPPE or AWV within the measurement year.

### Visit Components:

Component	IPPE	AWV
<b>Eligibility/ Frequency</b>	Once per lifetime, within the first 12 months of Medicare Part B enrollment.	Annually
<b>Purpose</b>	Health promotion, disease prevention, and detection to help members stay well.	Develop/update a personalized prevention plan and perform a Health Risk Assessment.
<b>Health History</b>	Review of medical and social history and family history.	Review/update medical, family, and social history.
<b>Health Risk Assessment</b>	Initial Health Risk Assessment is completed.	Health Risk Assessment is administered/updated
<b>Physical Exam</b>	Includes a physical exam: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blood pressure</li> <li>• BMI</li> <li>• Height</li> <li>• Visual acuity screening</li> <li>• Weight</li> </ul>	Routine measurements taken, but generally no hands-on physical exam: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blood pressure</li> <li>• BMI</li> <li>• Height</li> <li>• Weight</li> </ul>

Component	IPPE	AWV
<b>Cognitive Assessment</b>	Review of potential risk factors for depression and other mood disorders.	Detection of possible cognitive impairment is mandatory.
<b>Functional/Safety Assessment</b>	Review of functional ability and level of safety: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fall risk</li> <li>• Hearing impairment</li> <li>• Home safety</li> </ul>	Assessment of functional ability and level of safety.
<b>Medication Review</b>	Review of current medications and supplements	Review/update of current prescriptions, supplements, and list of providers/suppliers.
<b>Preventive Plan/ Education</b>	Education, counseling, and referrals for preventive services.	Development/update of a personalized prevention plan and a screening schedule for appropriate services.
<b>Advance Care Planning</b>	Optional	Optional

### Coding Tips:

HCPCS Code	Description
<b>G0402</b>	Initial Preventive Physical Examination (IPPE) or “Welcome to Medicare Visit.” Medicare pays for one (1) IPPE per lifetime within the first 12 months a patient has Medicare Part B coverage.
<b>G0438</b>	Initial Annual Wellness Visit
<b>G0439</b>	Subsequent Annual Wellness Visit. Billed each subsequent year after the initial visit.
<b>G0468</b>	An IPPE or AWV completed by a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).

### How to Improve Your IPPE/AWV Rates

- Perform AWVs early in the year, preferably within the first six (6) months.
- Encourage patients to arrive 15 minutes prior to their scheduled appointment to complete the health risk assessment if not completed prior to check-in.
- Develop a template in your EMR that captures all necessary components of an IPPE and AWV.
- Ensure all active conditions are properly documented in the medical record and coded on the claim.
- Schedule follow-ups and next year’s AWV during check-out.
- Make every visit count by utilizing monthly gap-in-care reports to identify patients who are due for an AWV.