

## Medicare G0438-G0439: Two Annual Wellness Visit Codes



### Medicare Benefit: Annual Wellness Visits Covered

Good news for Medicare patients! Effective January 1, 2011, Medicare started to provide coverage for Annual Wellness Visits. This benefit was included in the Affordable Care Act of 2010. Medicare has come up with two HCPCS codes for these wellness visits for medical billing purposes. The codes are **G0438** and **G0439**.

## G0438 Annual Wellness Visit, Initial (AWV)

Annual wellness visit, including a personalized prevention plan of service (PPPS), first visit.

## G0439 Annual Wellness Visit, Subsequent (AWV)

Annual Wellness Visit, including a personalized prevention plan of service (PPPS), subsequent visit. Annual Wellness Visits can be for either new or established patients as the code does not differentiate. The initial AWV, G0438, is performed on patients that have been enrolled with Medicare for more than one year. A patient is eligible for their subsequent AWV, G0439, one year after their initial visit. Remember that during the first year a patient has enrolled with Medicare, he is eligible for the Welcome to Medicare visit or Initial Preventative Physical Exam (IPPE). This exam is billed using HCPCS code G0402. An Annual Wellness Visit code of G0438 should not be used -- and will be denied -- because the patient is eligible for the Welcome to Medicare visit during the first year of enrollment. For more information on the Welcome to Medicare visit go to [CMS](#).

## What is included in an Initial AWV with PPPS?

1. Medical and family history
2. List of current medical providers
3. Height, weight, BMI, BP and other appropriate routine measurements
4. Detection of cognitive impairment
5. Review risk factors
6. Review of functional ability
7. Establish a written screening schedule for next 5-10 years
8. Establish list of risk factors
9. Provide advice and referrals to health education and preventative counseling services
10. Other elements as determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services

The above list is just a summary. Check out [MLN Matters Number MM7079](#) for additional information and links to other Medicare resources on services that must be provided at the AWV

and subsequent AWV. Preventative Medicine codes 99387 and 99397, better known to offices as Complete Physical Exams or Well Checks for 65 and older, still remain a non-covered, routine service from Medicare. The Well Woman Exam codes G0101 and Q0091 are covered services. For additional information, specifics, and more details, visit the CMS or your local Medicare carrier's website. You can also contact them directly.

## About the Author



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Manny Oliverrez, CPC, is a 20-year healthcare veteran and the CEO and co-founder of Capture Billing, a medical billing services company located outside of Washington, D.C. He teaches the nation's physicians, administrators, and medical practices how to maximize billing and revenue cycle management processes. Manny also frequently posts articles and videos on his [award-winning healthcare blog](#). For more information on Manny and his company, please visit [his website](#), or call (703)327-1800. And if you're on [LinkedIn](#), please look for him there too. **READ MORE**

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