

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION PRIVATE PRACTICE PHYSICIANS SECTION

Resolution: 2  
(I-25)

Introduced by: Connie DiMari, MD

Subject: Rethink the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit

Referred to: PPPS Reference Committee  
(xxxx, MD, Chair)

Whereas, the Medicare annual wellness visit (AWV) was established by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) with the laudable goal of encouraging preventive care and reducing the cost of healthcare by addressing health issues before they become serious or costly; and

Whereas, the AWV does not include disease management and need not include a physical exam; and

Whereas, physician organizations' prioritization of the AWV appears to hamper patients with urgent medical issues from securing timely appointments with their physicians; and

Whereas, this often forces patients with urgent needs to seek care in emergency rooms, urgent care centers, or from physician assistant and nurse practitioners, which can result in inflated healthcare costs and compromised quality of care; and

Whereas, since the implementation of the AWV in 2011, there is little evidence to demonstrate improvement in patient outcomes; and

Whereas, patients drawn in by emails encouraging an AWV likely lead to the overutilization of primary care visits that are in short supply by low-risk, highly health-conscious individuals, diverting time and resources from patients with higher-risk conditions or acute needs; and

Whereas, replacing the AWV with a more thorough annual comprehensive examination would offer patients the opportunity to have their healthcare needs met expeditiously, utilize limited primary care services more efficiently, and would likely be more effective in improving patient outcomes; and

Whereas, physician reimbursement for an annual comprehensive examination should be greater than reimbursement for the AWV to reflect the increase in scope and encourage its acceptance and utilization; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association advocate for a thoughtful reevaluation of the Medicare annual wellness visit and consider replacing it with an annual comprehensive examination that would integrate preventive care services, a thorough physical exam, and the management of acute or chronic health conditions (Directive to Take Action).

Fiscal Note: (Assigned by HOD)

Received: 8/27/2025

## **RELEVANT AMA POLICY**

### **Providers and the Annual Wellness Visit H-330.879**

1. Our AMA supports that the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit (AWV) is a benefit most appropriately provided by a physician or a member of a physician-led health care team that establishes or continues to provide ongoing continuity of care.
2. Our AMA supports that, at a minimum, any clinician performing the AWV must enumerate all relevant findings from the visit and make provisions for all appropriate follow-up care.
3. Our AMA supports that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) provide a means for physicians to determine whether or not Medicare has already paid for an AWV for a patient in the past 12 months.
4. Our AMA encourages CMS to educate Medicare enrollees, that, in choosing their primary care physician, they are encouraged to make their AWVs with their primary care physician in order to facilitate continuity and coordination of their care

Citation: CMS Rep. 03, I-16