



Women's Wellness Clinic

249 East Highway 54, Suite 330
Durham, NC 27713

Important Notice to Patients Regarding Annual Physicals and Welcome to Medicare Visits

The providers at the Women's Wellness Clinic are committed to helping you stay healthy. Please review the following information on preventative health services, such as physicals, well-visits, and Welcome to Medicare visits and acknowledge that you have read and understand this policy.

What is the purpose of a routine preventative exam?

The purpose of a routine preventative exam is to identify potential health concerns in their earliest stages when they may be less costly and difficult to treat.

What is the definition of a routine preventative exam?

A routine preventive exam is technically defined as periodic comprehensive preventative medicine evaluation and management, and includes the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Past medical, social, and family history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of age/gender appropriate screening tests
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immunizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete physical exam and review of body systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of medications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counseling/ anticipatory guidance/ risk reduction interventions

How does this affect my visit and my bill?

This exam is prevention focused, not problem focused. **Please note that an Annual Physical, Well Visit, and/or Welcome to Medicare Visit should be scheduled separately from other visits that are intended to discuss treatment of acute problems, management of chronic conditions, or to request prescription refills.** If you have scheduled a routine preventative exam but your physician believes that the majority of the time was spent with medical concerns, the provider will bill an additional charge for the treatment of your current and/or existing problems in addition to the preventative exam. It's important to note that your healthcare provider has the right to code and bill as they see the service from his or her viewpoint.

Will my provider address only what my health plan covers for a routine preventative exam?

Your provider does not know your health benefits and sees many patients with various insurance plans throughout the day. You are responsible for knowing what services are covered under your health plan. Review your summary of benefits or call customer service prior to your preventative exam.

What can I do to make sure I receive my routine preventative exam?

You can take the following steps to help ensure your routine exam is billed correctly:

1. When scheduling your routine preventative exam with your provider's office, use the terms "routine preventative exam," or "annual physical", not "check-up", which implies checking up on a health problem.
2. When you talk with your provider, let them know you are there for your routine preventative exam.
3. If you bring up health problems (i.e. skin rash, allergies, blood pressure, etc.) during your routine preventative exam, understand that you will have an additional charge related to the treatment of that problem.
4. Do not save up all of your health concerns for your routine preventative exam. If you have a current chronic condition, you may need other diagnostic visits & services during the year.

****PATIENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT****

I have read and understand Women's Wellness Clinic's policy on routine preventative exams. I understand that a preventative exam is not intended to discuss acute problems, chronic conditions, or to request medication refills. I understand that if I must address non-preventive medical problems with my physician, I will be billed for the services rendered.

Name of Patient/Patient Representative Signature of Patient/Patient Representative Date