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ATTENTION: Language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Please let us know your primary language and we will have an interpreter available to assist with your care.

Spanish/Español – ATENCIÓN: Si usted habla español, tenemos servicios de asistencia lingüística gratuitos a su disposición. Déjenos saber cuál es su idioma nativo y le brindaremos un intérprete para asistirle con sus cuidados de salud.

Portuguese/Português – ATENÇÃO: se você fala português, os serviços de suporte ao idioma estão disponíveis gratuitamente para você. Informe-nos qual é o seu idioma e nós providenciaremos um intérprete disponível para ajudá-lo.

Preventive Health Exam Billing at Mass General Brigham

This guide provides information about billing for the health care services you may receive during Preventive Health Exams and why you may be financially responsible for those services.

For additional information, please visit:
massgeneralbrigham.org/patient-information/billing-and-insurance

What is a Preventive Health Exam and is it covered by my insurance?

A preventive health exam is an **Annual Physical** during which your primary care provider will:

1. Ask you questions about your health
2. Do a physical examination
3. Give you advice about how to prevent health problems
4. Take care of minor health problems or a chronic illness that has **not** changed

Commercial Health Plans

Under the Affordable Care Act, commercial health plans are required to cover an annual Preventive Health Exam at no cost to the patient (no co-payment, co-insurance or deductible).

Medicare Advantage

Many Medicare Advantage plans will also pay the full cost of Preventive Health Exams as defined in this guide.

Medicare Part B

Annual Wellness Visit

Medicare Part B covers a different version of an annual visit, called a “Medicare Annual Wellness Visit.”

During your Medicare Annual Wellness Visit your provider will:

1. Ask you questions about your health, and family and social history
2. Provide advice about how to prevent health problems, including a plan for screening in the future
3. Screen you for depression and other mental health or safety concerns

A Medicare Annual Wellness Visit **does not include a physical exam**. If your provider does perform a physical exam during your visit to assess your health or treat any medical problems, **you may be responsible for a co-insurance or a Medicare Part B deductible payment**.

“Welcome to Medicare” Visit

During your first 12 months of enrollment in Medicare Part B, a “Welcome to Medicare” visit is covered, which includes a physical examination.

When would any of these annual health visits turn into a Sick or Chronic Disease Visit?

Sometimes, your annual Preventive Health Exam, Medicare Annual Wellness Visit or Welcome to Medicare Visit can turn into a **“Sick Visit”**.

During your visit, your provider may need to treat a new medical issue or a chronic problem that has changed. If that occurs, this part of the visit is called a Sick Visit and may result in additional services being billed to your insurance.

Most insurance companies will pay for Sick Visit evaluations, tests and treatments, but your insurance plan may require you to pay a co-payment, deductible, and/or co-insurance payment for the Sick Visit, even when it is done during the same appointment as your Preventive Health Exam, Medicare Annual Wellness Visit or Welcome to Medicare Visit.

Are Lab Tests for disease screening and Immunizations covered during my annual health visits?

Medicare and many commercial health insurance plans cover certain screening tests (such as cancer and cardiovascular disease screening) and immunizations. Specific coverage depends on your age and health insurance plan. Some tests and immunizations

may not be covered at 100% and some may not be covered at all. In those cases you may be responsible for a co-insurance or deductible payment.

When will I have to pay?

We will request payment of your co-payment when you check-in for a visit. We will send you a bill if there is any unpaid balance after we receive payment for your visit from your insurance company.

It is important that you understand your health insurance benefits, and we encourage you to contact your health insurance plan if you have any questions about what is included in your Preventive Health Exam, Medicare Annual Wellness Visit or Welcome to Medicare Visit, or about charges for Sick Visits, lab tests, immunizations and other services that are performed during your Preventive Health Exam, Medicare Annual Wellness or Welcome to Medicare Visit.

If your insurance company does not answer all of your questions, please contact Mass General Brigham patient billing solutions:

Mailing address

Mass General Brigham
Patient Billing Solutions
399 Revolution Drive, Suite 410
Somerville, MA 02145-1462

Phone

(617) 726-3884
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Thur 9:15 AM to 4:30 PM

Email

patientbilling@partners.org

[massgeneralbrigham.org/patient-information/billing-and-insurance](https://www.massgeneralbrigham.org/patient-information/billing-and-insurance)