

## The ABCs of the Initial Preventive Physical Examination (IPPE)

**Please note:** The information in this publication applies only to the Medicare Fee-For-Service Program (also known as Original Medicare).

The Initial Preventive Physical Examination (IPPE) is also known as the “Welcome to Medicare Preventive Visit.” The goals of the IPPE are health promotion and disease prevention and detection. Medicare pays for one IPPE per beneficiary per lifetime for beneficiaries within the first 12 months of the effective date of the beneficiary’s first Medicare Part B coverage period.

This document explains the elements in the IPPE. You must provide all components of the IPPE prior to submitting a claim for the IPPE.

**NOTE:** The IPPE is a separate service from the Annual Wellness Visit (AWV). For more information about the AWV, refer to “The ABCs of the Annual Wellness Visit (AWV)” at <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/CMS1246474.html> on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website.

### Components of the IPPE

#### Acquire Beneficiary Information

Acquire Beneficiary Information	Required Elements
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Review the beneficiary’s medical and social history	At a minimum, collect information about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Past medical/surgical history (experiences with illnesses, hospital stays, operations, allergies, injuries, and treatments);</li> <li>▪ Current medications and supplements (including calcium and vitamins);</li> <li>▪ Family history (review of medical events in the beneficiary’s family, including diseases that may be hereditary or place the beneficiary at risk);</li> <li>▪ History of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug use;</li> <li>▪ Diet; and</li> <li>▪ Physical activities.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Review the beneficiary’s potential risk factors for depression and other mood disorders	Use any appropriate screening instrument for beneficiaries without a current diagnosis of depression from various available screening tests recognized by national professional medical organizations to obtain current or past experiences with depression or other mood disorders.

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## Acquire Beneficiary Information (cont.)

Acquire Beneficiary Information	Required Elements
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Review the beneficiary's functional ability and level of safety	Use any appropriate screening questions or standardized questionnaires recognized by national professional medical organizations to review, at a minimum, the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Hearing impairment;</li><li>▪ Activities of daily living;</li><li>▪ Fall risk; and</li><li>▪ Home safety.</li></ul>

## Begin Examination and Discussion

Begin Examination and Discussion	Required Elements
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Exam	Obtain the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Height, weight, body mass index, and blood pressure;</li><li>▪ Visual acuity screen; and</li><li>▪ Other factors deemed appropriate based on the beneficiary's medical and social history and current clinical standards.</li></ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. End-of-life planning, on agreement of the beneficiary	End-of-life planning is verbal or written information provided to the beneficiary about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The beneficiary's ability to prepare an advance directive in case an injury or illness causes the beneficiary to be unable to make health care decisions; and</li><li>▪ Whether or not you are willing to follow the beneficiary's wishes as expressed in the advance directive.</li></ul>



## Counsel Beneficiary

Counsel Beneficiary	Required Elements
<input type="checkbox"/> 6. Educate, counsel, and refer based on the previous five components	Based on the results of the review and evaluation services in the previous five components, provide education, counseling, and referral as appropriate.
<input type="checkbox"/> 7. Educate, counsel, and refer for other preventive services	Includes a brief written plan, such as a checklist, for the beneficiary to obtain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A once-in-a-lifetime screening electrocardiogram (EKG/ECG), as appropriate; and</li> <li>▪ The appropriate screenings and other preventive services that Medicare covers. See the following list of other Medicare-covered preventive services.</li> </ul>

## Other Medicare Part B Preventive Services

- Alcohol Misuse Screening and Counseling
- AWW
- Bone Mass Measurements
- Cardiovascular Disease Screening Test
- Colorectal Cancer Screening
- Counseling to Prevent Tobacco Use (for Asymptomatic Beneficiaries)
- Depression Screening
- Diabetes Screening
- Diabetes Self-Management Training (DSMT)
- Glaucoma Screening
- Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) Screening
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Screening
- Influenza, Pneumococcal, and Hepatitis B Vaccinations and their Administration
- Intensive Behavioral Therapy (IBT) for Cardiovascular Disease (CVD), also known as a CVD risk reduction visit
- IBT for Obesity
- Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT)
- Prostate Cancer Screening
- Screening for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) Screening and High Intensity Behavioral Counseling (HIBC) to Prevent STIs

- Screening Mammography
- Screening Pap Tests
- Screening Pelvic Examination (includes a clinical breast examination)
- Ultrasound Screening for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)

For additional information on Medicare preventive services, visit <http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/PreventiveServices.html> on the CMS website, or scan the Quick Response (QR) code on the right.



### Lung Cancer Screening Counseling and Annual Screening for Lung Cancer with Low Dose Computed Tomography

Effective February 5, 2015, Medicare began covering lung cancer screening counseling and a shared decision making visit, and for appropriate beneficiaries, annual screening for lung cancer with low dose computed tomography (LDCT). For more information, visit <http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/details/nca-decision-memo.aspx?NCAId=274> on the CMS website.

## Coding, Diagnosis, and Billing

### Coding

Use the following Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) codes when filing claims for the IPPE and screening ECG.

#### IPPE HCPCS Codes and Descriptors

IPPE HCPCS Codes	Billing Code Descriptors
G0402	Initial preventive physical examination; face-to-face visit, services limited to new beneficiary during the first 12 months of Medicare enrollment
G0403	Electrocardiogram, routine ECG with 12 leads; performed as a screening for the initial preventive physical examination with interpretation and report
G0404	Electrocardiogram, routine ECG with 12 leads; tracing only, without interpretation and report, performed as a screening for the initial preventive physical examination
G0405	Electrocardiogram, routine ECG with 12 leads; interpretation and report only, performed as a screening for the initial preventive physical examination



## Who Can Get the IPPE?

All new Medicare beneficiaries who are within the first 12 months of their first Medicare Part B coverage period may get an IPPE. This is a **one-time** benefit.

### Diagnosis

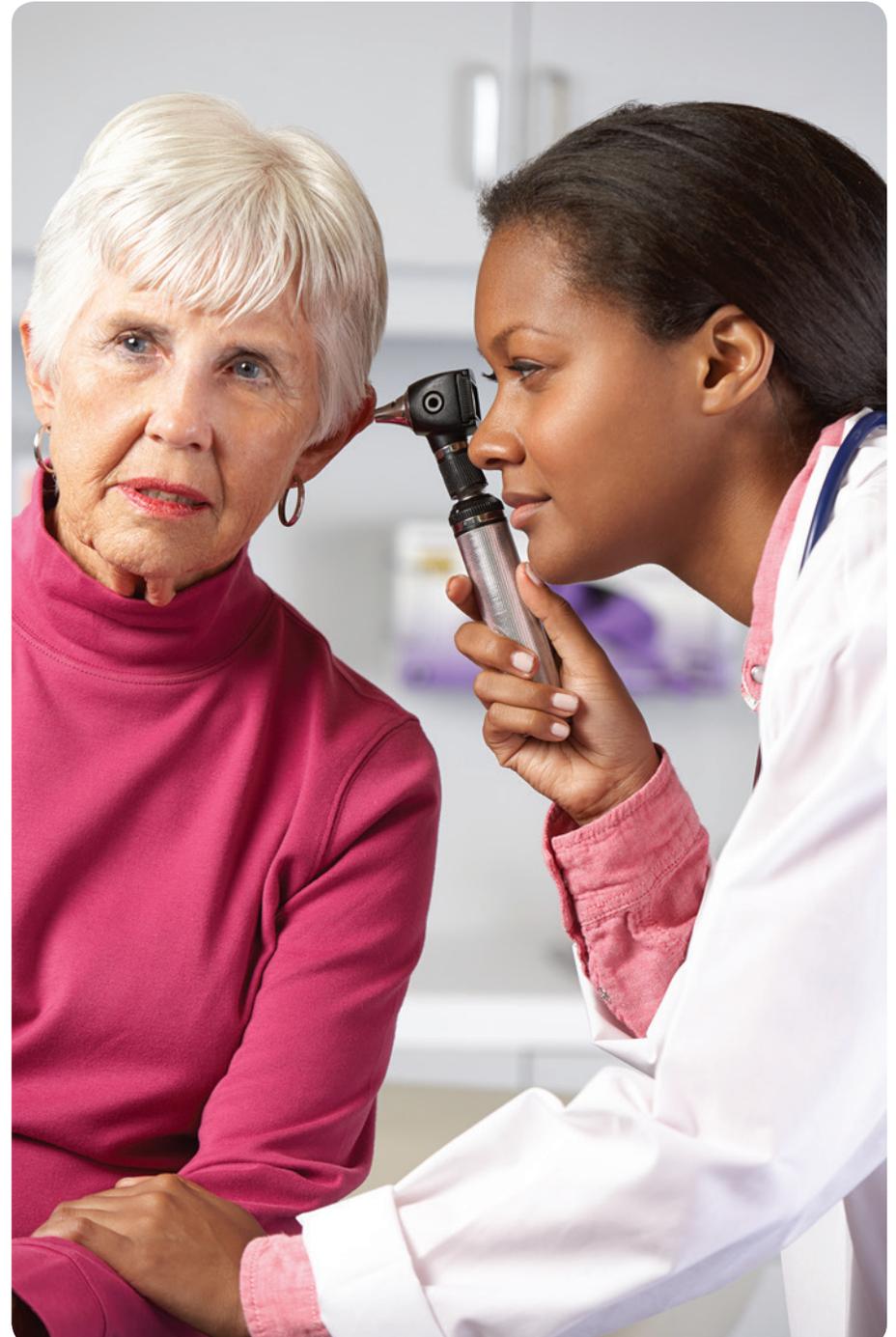
Since CMS does not require a specific diagnosis code for the IPPE, you may choose any appropriate diagnosis code. You must report a diagnosis code.

### Billing

Medicare covers an IPPE when performed by a:

- Physician (a doctor of medicine or osteopathy); or
- Qualified non-physician practitioner (a physician assistant, nurse practitioner, or certified clinical nurse specialist).

When you furnish a significant, separately identifiable medically necessary Evaluation and Management (E/M) service in addition to the IPPE, Medicare may pay for the additional service. Report the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code with modifier -25. That portion of the visit must be medically necessary to treat the beneficiary's illness or injury or to improve the functioning of a malformed body member.



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### **Is the IPPE the same as a beneficiary's yearly physical?**

No. The IPPE is not a “routine physical checkup” that some seniors may get every year or so from their physician or other qualified non-physician practitioner. The IPPE is an introduction to Medicare and covered benefits and focuses on health promotion and disease prevention and detection to help beneficiaries stay well. Medicare does not cover routine physical examinations.

### **Are clinical laboratory tests part of the IPPE?**

No. The IPPE does not include any clinical laboratory tests, but you may make referrals for such tests as part of the IPPE, if appropriate.

### **Do deductible or coinsurance/copayment apply for the IPPE?**

No. Medicare waives both the coinsurance/copayment and the Medicare Part B deductible for the IPPE (HCPCS code G0402). Neither is waived for the screening ECG (HCPCS codes G0403, G0404, or G0405).

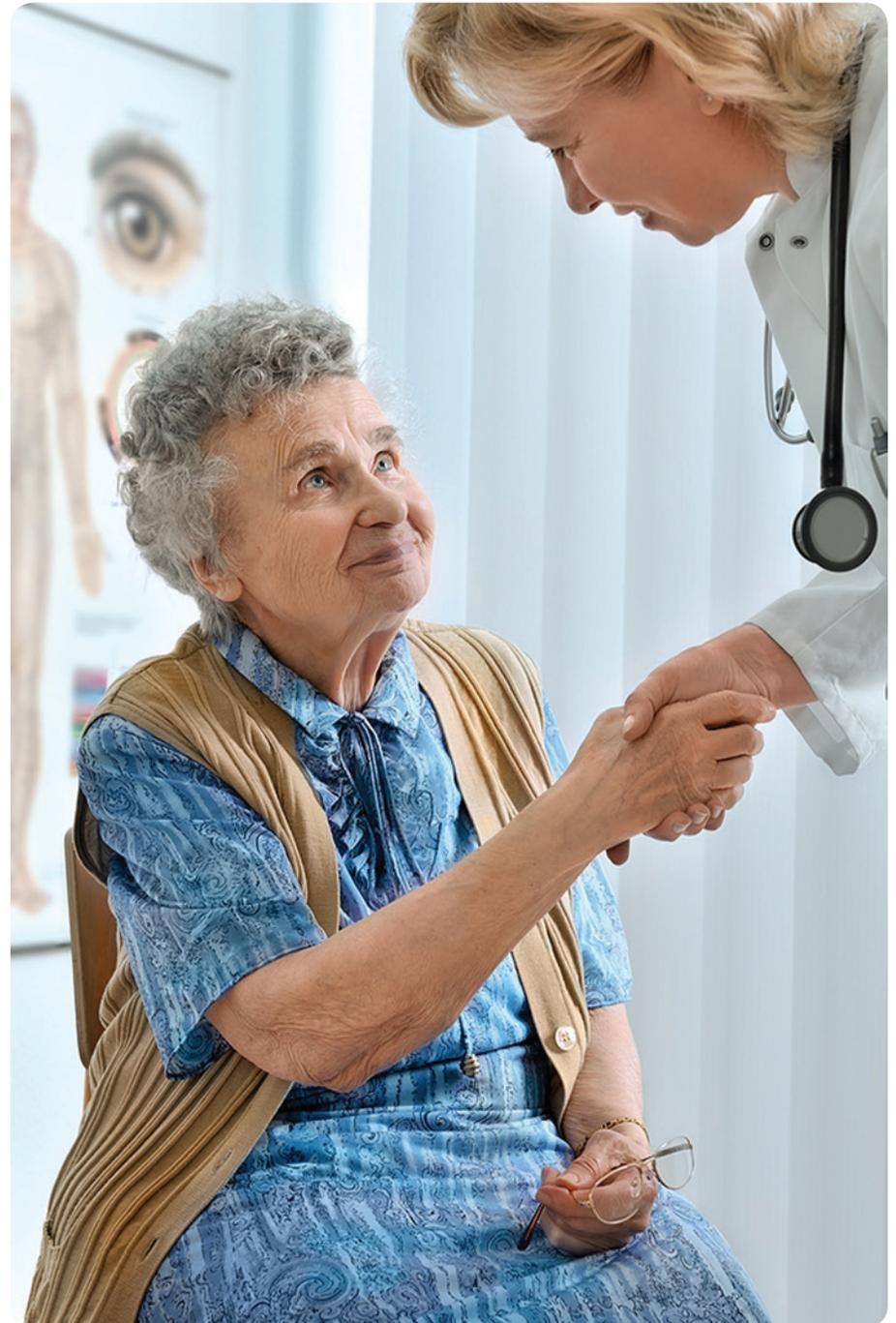
### **If a beneficiary enrolled in Medicare in 2014, can he or she have the IPPE in 2015 if it was not performed in 2014?**

A beneficiary who has not yet had an IPPE and whose initial enrollment in Medicare Part B began in 2014 is eligible for an IPPE in 2015 as long as it is done within 12 months of the beneficiary's first Medicare Part B enrollment effective date.

### **Preparing Eligible Medicare Beneficiaries for the IPPE**

Providers can help eligible Medicare beneficiaries get ready for their IPPE by encouraging them to come prepared with the following information:

- Medical records, including immunization records;
- Family health history, in as much detail as possible; and
- A full list of medications and supplements, including calcium and vitamins—how often and how much of each is taken.



## Resources

### IPPE Resources

Resource	Website
CMS FAQs about the IPPE	<a href="https://questions.cms.gov/faq.php?id=5005&amp;rtopic=1991&amp;rsubtopic=7747">https://questions.cms.gov/faq.php?id=5005&amp;rtopic=1991&amp;rsubtopic=7747</a>
“Medicare Benefit Policy Manual” (Publication 100-02)	Chapter 15 <a href="http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/bp102c15.pdf">http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/bp102c15.pdf</a>
“Medicare Claims Processing Manual” (Publication 100-04)	Chapter 12, Section 30.6.1.1 <a href="http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c12.pdf">http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c12.pdf</a>  Chapter 18, Section 80 <a href="http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c18.pdf">http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/Downloads/clm104c18.pdf</a>
Medicare Learning Network® (MLN) Guided Pathways (GPs)	<a href="http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNEdWebGuide/Guided_Pathways.html">http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNEdWebGuide/Guided_Pathways.html</a>
MLN Matters® Article MM6223, “Update to the Initial Preventive Physical Examination (IPPE) Benefit”	<a href="http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM6223.pdf">http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM6223.pdf</a>
MLN Matters® Article MM8881, “Medicare Coverage of Ultrasound Screening for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms (AAA) and Screening Fecal-Occult Blood Tests (FOBT)”	<a href="http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM8881.pdf">http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM8881.pdf</a>
MLN Matters® Article SE1338, “Improve Your Patients’ Health with the Initial Preventive Physical Examination (IPPE) and Annual Wellness Visit (AWV)”	<a href="http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/SE1338.pdf">http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/SE1338.pdf</a>
“Preventive Services Chart” Educational Tool	<a href="http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/CMS1243319.html">http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/CMS1243319.html</a>
Preventive Services MLN Web Page	<a href="http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Preventive_Services.html">http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Preventive_Services.html</a>
“Resources for Medicare Beneficiaries” Fact Sheet	<a href="http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/ICN905183.html">http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/MLN-Publications-Items/ICN905183.html</a>



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