

# Quality Provider Program: Primary Care

## Annual Wellness Visits: Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: Why does this measure matter?

A: An annual wellness visit (AWV) gives:

- The patient and their provider a complete picture of the patient's health and what they need to do to be healthier. The more patients know about their own health, the more likely they are to be their own advocates.
- The provider a great opportunity to coordinate care and openly discuss the extremely important topic of advanced care planning and for referrals to community-based health resources, if applicable.

### Q: What is Select Health doing to help?

A: Select Health promotes AWVs by:

- Rewarding members in our Healthy Living program for completing preventive care activities (e.g., the AWV) via a "flex benefit card"  
[Learn more.](#)
- Conducting regular outreach to those who haven't yet completed their AWV.
- Providing AWVs at no cost to Medicare members (in most situations).

### Q: What are best practices for this measure?

A: Best practices include:

- Regularly referencing the SelectHealth Quality Provider Program dashboard/clinic electronic medical record to identify patients eligible for an AWV.
- Participating in an Accountable Care Organization (ACO) to help a clinic focus on completing AWVs.
- Developing a standard scheduling process where eligible patients are identified and scheduled for their AWV.
- Incorporating the AWV into the clinic's workflow. Identify team members who can complete an AWV (e.g., a registered nurse, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner).

### Resource:

Preventive Services. CMS.gov. Last modified November 23, 2022. Available at: <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/prevention/prevntiongeninfo>. Accessed December 27, 2022.



Questions about the Quality Provider Program?  
Contact us at [QualityProvider@selecthealth.org](mailto:QualityProvider@selecthealth.org).

### COMPONENTS OF AN ANNUAL WELLNESS VISIT

For a valid annual wellness visit, be sure to:

- Administer a Health Risk Assessment (HRA).
- Establish a list of current providers and suppliers.
- Review the:
  - Potential risk factors for depression, including current or past experiences with depression or other mood disorders
  - Functional ability and level of safety
- Assess height, weight, body mass index, blood pressure, etc.
- Detect any cognitive impairment.
- Establish a:
  - Written screening schedule, such as a checklist for the next 5–10 years, as appropriate
  - List of risk factors and conditions for which the primary, secondary, or tertiary interventions are recommended/ underway
- Furnish personalized health advice and a referral, as appropriate, to health education or preventive counseling services or program.