

WE OFFER WELLNESS AND PREVENTIVE CARE!

What has, in the past, been referred to as a "complete physical", or "annual exam", is our opportunity to review your health status with you. We call this a "wellness visit" in order to emphasize our focus on your health and well being. A wellness visit includes reviewing your past medical history, your social history, and your family history, and using this data to address your age appropriate wellness needs. These may include things like cancer screening, immunizations, appropriate blood tests, and imaging tests (e.g. mammograms). We will also take the time to address any significant risk factors you have for developing serious disease and try to work with you to lower your risk. As Ben Franklin said, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure".

Various insurances use various terms for this wellness visit, including "annual exam", "complete physical", and others, but all these terms refer to the same thing we call a wellness visit. It is your responsibility to know whether or not your insurance covers this type of annual visit, as we deal with so many different insurances it is impossible for us to know, for any particular patient, whether or not this is covered, or how often it is covered.

Patients often ask us to address problems while they are here for their wellness visits - either chronic problems or new ones. We understand that you do not want to come back for another visit if the problem can be addressed while you are here. When we deal with a problem, we are required to charge for a problem visit in addition to the charge for the wellness visit. There are times when we simply don't have time to deal with problems in addition to the wellness issues, so sometimes we will ask you to schedule another visit. We do our best to address all your needs while you are here.

It is confusing when your insurance statement shows charges for two types of service when you were only here once. Feel free to call us with questions you may have about these charges. But please understand that this is how your insurance requires us to bill.

As always, thank you for helping us to help you.