

Annual Visit Information

An annual exam is a once-a-year visit to your primary care provider for a general health check and to identify potential health problems in the early stages when they may be easier and less costly to treat. Annual exams may also be referred to as yearly exams or preventive visits.

An annual exam visit does not include discussions of new problems or detailed review of chronic conditions. If you have a new health problem or other diagnoses that need to be addressed during your preventive office visit, e.g., vaginal discharge/dryness, pelvic pain, irregular bleeding, or urinary issues, your provider may bill part of the exam at 100% for your annual preventive exam and part of your visit as an office visit for treatment of a new diagnosis. The portion of your visit related to the treatment of your “non Annual” diagnosis may apply toward your deductible, coinsurance and/or copay. If your provider feels that the majority of the time was spent with medical concerns, the entire visit may be considered a medical treatment visit and would not be billed as preventive. It is important to note that your healthcare provider has the right to code and bill as they see the service from their viewpoint.

Annual exam visits often include the following:

- Update of past medical, social, work and family history**
- Complete physical exam and review of body systems**
- Review of medications, herbs and supplements**
- Need for medication refills**
- Immunizations**
- Counseling/anticipatory guidance/risk factor reduction interventions**
- Review of age/gender appropriate screening tests**
- The exam is prevention-focused, not problem-focused**

Annual Exams DO NOT include:

- Discussion and/or treatment of chronic or acute issues**
- Discussion or treatment of new health concerns/issues**
- Labs/diagnostic testing related to new issues**