

Annual Wellness Visit Program

Good for Your Patients and Your Practice



The Importance of Annual Wellness Visits

An Annual Wellness Visit (AWV) is one of the most effective preventive tools at your disposal. It's the best way to accurately assess a patient's health status to identify current needs and potential complications in order to devise an appropriate treatment plan. The information gathered during an AWV doesn't only define the course of treatment, it's also essential to our ACO success.

The first step in capturing and addressing all diagnoses, and thus raising individual practice Benchmark score, is the Annual Wellness Visit. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) actively monitors and tracks AWV data because the process is necessary to reflect illness acuity for accurate reimbursements. Low acuity means lower reimbursement and inaccurately low acuity for sicker patients means treating them at an operating loss.

More importantly, Proper AWVs are critical to identifying and disrupting chronic conditions and their potential complications. Accurate/timely diagnosis and treatment is the key to prevention. *For example; in the case of complications from Diabetes, with advanced warning, you can actively work to prevent a limb amputation.*

FEWER THAN

20%

In spite of this, fewer than 20% of our patients receive a proper AWV.

This negatively impacts patient wellness and our ability to meet shared savings benchmarks. To help change this, Premier Patient Health Care (PPHC) ACO has created a new program to make the Annual Wellness Visit process easier for our partner physicians and their patients.

Necessary Isn't Necessarily Easy

At PPHC we understand that there are many reasons why physicians aren't able to focus on Annual Wellness visits. They are very time and labor intensive – taking up to 1½ hours per patient to complete. The reimbursement rate is also low for something that takes so much time to coordinate and complete.

It is also hard to keep patients on track during a wellness visit. Most patients view physician appointments as “sick visits” and want to focus only on known, or feared, concerns when seeing their doctor. This makes it even harder to complete an AWV exam. ***Luckily, we have your solution.***

Your Annual Wellness Life Line

PPHC ACO is partnering with Life Line Community Healthcare to provide an effortless, all-inclusive AWW Program for our partner physicians. Working in conjunction with the PPHC central business office, Life Line will handle every detail required for successful AWW completion.

Everything is managed for you and your patient from start to finish! All we ask is that you provide up to two exam rooms for the day for Life Line to conduct the visits. ***They will even schedule visits after hours and on weekends so that they won't interrupt your practice's flow.***

In exchange for this complete service, PPHC will distribute 70% of the related wellness visit reimbursements to Life Line. Primary doctors will receive the remaining 30% (for what amounts to a 5 minute consultation!) and your practice will earn 100% of the additional billable follow-up services that generate from the wellness visit.

Complete Service Includes:

1	Identification of eligible patients
2	Outbound calls to educate patients and set wellness appointments
3	Review of past medical history with chart and prescription reconciliation at patient check-in
4	Nurse Practitioner conducts 45-60 minute wellness visit, completes health risk assessment and uses Premier's AWW form to capture most, if not all of our ACO required GPRO metrics
5	Nurse Practitioner coordinates 5-10 minute consultation with patient and physician to set care plan in action and order other preventive screenings
6	Schedule other preventive and follow-up services at time of patient-check out
7	Distribute results – paper copy to patient and integrates AWW data into practice EMR

Why Participate

Annual Wellness Visits are essential on many levels. If you're not able to conduct them, you are selling your patients short, depriving them of potentially life-and-limb-saving preventive care options. You're also selling your practice short. ***The bottom line is that your percentage completion of AWWs will directly affect your Shared Savings for 2015.***

To achieve shared savings, the maximum AWWs must be performed, properly documented and properly submitted. Since Life Line will be using our proprietary AWW template during each visit they will be capturing most of the information we'll need to report to CMS to satisfy GPRO reporting requirements. This means greater shared savings with less time and effort.

Next Step

You and your patients have much to lose by not properly conducting your Annual Wellness Visits, and much to gain by working through Life Line, our Preferred Partner.

To take advantage of this no-pain, all-gain opportunity, contact **Dawn Abasta at (216) 780-0072** or email dawn.abasta@llhc.com

