

Dear Patient,

Welcome to your Preventive Medicine Visit today, sometimes referred to as your *annual wellness exam*. The focus and scope of today's visit is on preventive care and includes an age and gender appropriate history and examination, counseling and risk factor reduction intervention.

CPT coding guidelines state *"If an abnormality is encountered or a pre-existing problem is addressed in the process of performing this preventive medicine service then the appropriate office outpatient code should also be reported."*

In other words, if a problem is addressed during the Preventive Visit, then we must bill for the Problem Visit in addition to the Preventive Services. While your preventive care may be covered at 100%, your problem or "sick" visits are subject to co-pays and/or deductibles.

In regards to annual lab screenings, be advised that a "screening" is designed for a person who has not yet been diagnosed with a particular disease. For example; your insurance carrier may allow for lipid screenings on an annual basis to determine if you have high cholesterol. Once it is determined that you do in fact have hyperlipidemia and are being treated for it, you may not be "screened" for it any longer. Your provider will order periodic tests to monitor your condition to check the efficacy of your medication, diet and exercise program, but once you have the disease, you are no longer eligible for free screenings.

If you have questions about this and would like to speak with one of our staff in the billing department, please let our receptionist or lab staff know. Our entire staff will be glad to assist you in any way possible during your visit today.

Sincerely,
Village Medical Center