

Medicare Benefits: Annual Wellness Exam and Care Planning

Objectives

- Discuss the elements of the exam
- Analyze cognitive evaluation content available and its implementation
- Identify the benefits of the Care Planning Benefit - CPT Billing Code 99483
- How to bill the Care Planning Benefit

Elements of cognitive assessment in Annual Wellness Exam*

- Direct observation
- Concerns expressed by patient or informant
- Brief cognitive test
- Evaluate chronic conditions and other factors that increase risk of cognitive impairment.

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Brief cognition testing

- Mini-Cog (free)
 - Recall & clock drawing
- The Saint Louis University Mental Status (SLUMS) exam (free)
- The General Practitioner assessment of Cognition (GPCOG) (free)
- Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA)
- Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE)

Abnormal cognition?



Cognitive evaluation content

- Schedule in-depth appointment
- Medical history
- Informant contribution
- Comprehensive physical exam
- Laboratory testing: metabolic and contributory
- Imaging studies (CT, MRI, PET)

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Cognitive evaluation content (continued)

- Depression screening
- Functional evaluation (IADLs/ADLs)
- Reconcile and review high-risk medications
- Conduct safety evaluation for home and motor vehicle operation
- Identify social support systems
 - Advance Care Planning

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Billing for cognitive assessment and care plan services*

Service	Code	Things to know
Initial AWW	G0438	You're required to check for cognitive impairment as part of the AWW.
Subsequent AWWs	G0439	You're required to check for cognitive impairment as part of subsequent AWWs.
Assessment of and care planning for patients with cognitive impairment like dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, at any stage of impairment	CPT code 99483	If you detect a cognitive impairment during the AWW, you may perform a more detailed cognitive assessment and care plan

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Benefits of early detection*

- Patients can receive most benefits from treatment options
- Lessened anxieties about unknown problems
- Opportunities:
 - participate future planning
 - participate in clinical trials
 - prioritize health

*Alzheimer's Association website for healthcare professionals

Benefits of early detection* (continued)

- Time to develop a relationship with health care providers and care partners
- Benefit from care and support services

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Takeaway points

Best practices with regulation

- Patient-centered care
- Evidence-based practice
- CMS reimbursement



Photo by Brenda Hedrick Wautlet