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Our practice is committed to providing our patients with the best healthcare possible. A part of our commitment is to ensure that every patient is educated on the type of appointments that may be scheduled as well as how these visits will affect you financially.

Annual Physical / Annual Wellness Exam

A routine preventive exam is technically defined as a periodic comprehensive preventive medical evaluation and management. This exam is prevention-focused rather than problem-focused. That means it is designed to prevent minor issues from becoming serious. Your provider will review your past medical, social and family history, age/ gender appropriate screening test, review medications and administer immunizations needed, offer guidance and counseling on reducing risk factors, and complete a physical exam of your body system and vital signs.

Many patients have health insurance plans that cover the entire cost of a yearly preventive health care visit, otherwise known as an annual physical. If you have an existing problem that needs to be addressed during your preventive office visit, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, skin rash, high cholesterol, headaches, etc., your provider may bill part of the exam as your annual preventive exam, and part of the exam as treatment of your diagnosis. The part of your exam related to the treatment of existing medical conditions applies towards your copay, deductible or coinsurance, which means you may owe a balance. If your provider feels that the majority of the time was spent discussing existing medical conditions, the entire visit may be considered a medical treatment visit and would not be billed as a routine preventive exam. In addition, some lab tests may not fall under preventive care if they are performed for specific problems or existing conditions that require ongoing oversight. For example, once you have been diagnosed with high cholesterol, a lipid panel is no longer considered screening. Instead, it is considered oversight and management of the disease.

Routine preventive exams are not meant to evaluate, diagnose, treat or manage existing problems.

Every insurance company has a list of labs and services they consider to be screenings. Our providers and staff are not provided with your health plan benefits and see many patients per day with various types of coverage. You will need to know which services are covered under your health plan. You can find this information by reviewing your Summary of Benefits or by calling member services on your insurance card.