

Preventive Visits and Chronic/Complex Condition Review

Comprehensive physical exam visits, Welcome to Medicare visits, and Annual Wellness Visits (AWV) are preventive visits that serve as great opportunities to review your patients’ chronic and complex conditions. Checking on condition status at these visits is especially helpful for patients you only see once a year.

REVIEWING CHRONIC CONDITIONS

In the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) book, Preventive Medicine Services includes a review of stable conditions. You can address chronic conditions with patients at a well visit. Below are typical services provided at a preventive visit:

- Age-and gender-appropriate history and physical exam
- Checking the status of pre-existing conditions that aren’t significant enough to require additional work
- Counseling, screening labs, and tests
- Appropriate vaccines for age and risk factorsⁱ

Don’t forget to code conditions such as:

- Status-post transplants
- Paraplegia
- Amputation
- Ostomies
- Ventilators

DOCUMENTING AND CODING CONDITIONS

You can code condition-related diagnoses with a preventive CPT. In the documentation examples below, coding the condition with a preventive CPT is correct.

Documentation	Coded Condition
Cardiomyopathy is managed by Dr. Smith at Heart Clinic	Cardiomyopathy
Continue current dose of Metformin for Type II Diabetes	Type II DM without complications
Asthma is stable, tolerating meds, no changes in treatment	Asthma, unspecified

When managing conditions requires more time or extra work, you have two choices:

1. Defer condition management: If you don’t have time to manage the condition and/or care isn’t urgent, make sure the patient schedules a follow-up appointment when checking out.
2. Manage the condition: If time allows, you can manage the condition during the well exam visit.
 - Discuss cost share (co-pays, deductibles, out-of-pocket costs) with the patient first.
 - Submit appropriate preventive codes. Add an evaluation and management code with a

modifier “25” if evaluation and management of the condition requires enough additional work and related documentation supports a separate visit.

When to use code Z00.00 vs. Z00.01:

- During a routine physical exam, use code Z00.01 if you identify a new chronic condition or note a change in the severity of a chronic condition (such as uncontrolled hypertension or an acute exacerbation of chronic obstructive pulmonary diseaseⁱⁱ). Otherwise, use code Z00.00.
- You should list condition diagnoses after the well exam-diagnosis codes Z00.00 or Z00.01.

For questions or more information, contact your Quality and Risk Adjustment Provider Clinical Consultant.

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ⁱⁱ ii ICD-10-CM created by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), under authorization by the World Health Organization (WHO). WHO-copyright holder.