Provider Notification/Education Sheet

Annual Wellness Visits (AWV): Calendar-Year Frequency Update

What Providers Need to Know

Annual Wellness Visits are covered once every **calendar year** (January 1–December 31), not once every rolling 12 months.

Effective Date: 07/20/2026

Current State: Annual Wellness Visits are covered on a rolling 12-month basis.

What Changed

The frequency definition was clarified from *once a year* to *once every calendar year* to align with preventive care standards and reduce claim denials.

How Calendar-Year Frequency Works

• One AWV is allowed once per calendar year.

• Example: An AWV on December 15, 2025 allows another AWV as early as January 1, 2026.

• Two AWVs may not be billed within the same calendar year.

Applicable Codes

- G0438 – Initial Annual Wellness Visit
- G0439 – Subsequent Annual Wellness Visit
- 99381-99387- New patient, age-specific
- 99397-99397- Established patient, age-specific

Applicable Plans: AvMed Commercial

Why This Matters

• Reduces unnecessary denials

• Improves end-of-year scheduling flexibility

• Supports preventive care compliance

Key Reminder

This update affects timing eligibility only. All documentation and medical necessity requirements remain unchanged.