

IPPE Coding

IPPE Medicare approved preventive services have been a covered service for a number of years now, but still there is much controversy surrounding proper use and documentation of the service. G0402- Initial preventive physical examination (IPPE); this benefit is only payable during the first twelve months of Medicare coverage. **This is a one-time benefit only, and is not available to beneficiaries on a yearly basis.**

Required elements for the Initial Preventive Physical Examination (IPPE) G0402:

- Review of an individual's medical and social history, with attention to modifiable risk factors for disease detection, including past medical and surgical history, such as experiences with illnesses, hospital stays, operations, allergies, injuries and treatments, current medication and supplements, family history (including diseases that may be hereditary or place the individual at risk), history of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug use, diet, and physical activities;
- Review of an individual's potential (risk factors) for depression, including current or past experiences with depression or other mood disorders, based on the use of an appropriate screening instrument for persons without a current diagnosis of depression, which the physician or other qualified NPP may select from various available standardized screening tests designed for this purpose and recognized by national professional medical organizations;
- Review of the individual's functional ability and level of safety based on the use of appropriate screening questions or a screening questionnaire, which the physician or other qualified NPP may select from various available screening questions or standardized questionnaires designed for this purpose and recognized by national professional medical organizations, including, at a minimum, a review of hearing impairment, activities of daily living, falls risk, and home safety and end-of-life planning is a mandatory service (upon an individual's consent);
- An examination to include measurement of the individual's height, weight, body mass index, blood pressure, a visual acuity screen, and other factors as deemed appropriate by the physician or qualified NPP, based on the individual's medical and social history (refer to service element 1) and current clinical standards;
- The IPPE includes end of life planning as a required service, upon the beneficiary's consent. End of life planning is verbal or written information provided to the beneficiary regarding: The beneficiary's ability to prepare an advance directive in the case that an injury or illness causes the beneficiary to be unable to make health care decisions, and whether or not the physician is willing to follow the beneficiary's wishes as expressed in the advance directive;

- Education, counseling, and referral as deemed appropriate by the physician or qualified NPP, based on the results of the review and evaluation services described in the previous five elements
- Education, counseling, and referral, including a brief written plan (e.g., a checklist or alternative) provided to the individual for obtaining the appropriate screening and other preventive services, which are covered separately under Medicare Part B. These include: (1) pneumococcal, influenza, and hepatitis B vaccines and their administration; (2) screening mammography; (3) screening pap smear and screening pelvic examinations; (4) prostate cancer screening tests; (5) colorectal cancer screening tests; (6) diabetes outpatient self-management training services; (7) bone mass measurements; (8) screening for glaucoma; (9) medical nutrition therapy for individuals with diabetes or renal disease; (10) cardiovascular screening blood tests; and (11) diabetes screening tests.
- The IPPE benefit also may include a screening EKG (optional), which should be billed appropriately using new HCPCS codes
 - G0403 (Electrocardiogram, routine ECG with 12 leads; performed as a component of the initial preventive examination with interpretation and report) for the full EKG service
 - G0404 (tracing only, without interpretation and report; performed as a component of the initial preventive examination) when only the tracing is performed
 - G0405 (interpretation and report only, performed as a component of the initial preventive examination) when only the interpretation and report are performed. These three codes reflect the global, technical, and professional components of the screening EKG, respectively.

This Week's Tip Provided by:

Omega Renne, CPC, CPCO, CPMA, CEMC, CIMC

Omega is the Senior Compliance Auditor/Healthcare Consultant in the Department of Audit and Regulatory Compliance at our parent company, DoctorsManagement, LLC

