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Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

## Understanding Your Annual Physical Exam Billing

An Annual Physical Exam, also called a Preventive Exam or Wellness Exam, is a medical visit focused on preventive care and overall health maintenance. This visit is designed for patients who are not experiencing new symptoms and would like a comprehensive review of their general health.

### WHAT IS INCLUDED IN AN ANNUAL PHYSICAL EXAM?

- Review of medical, family, and social history based on age and gender
- Complete physical examination
- Review of risk factors and preventive health planning
- Age-appropriate screenings
- Immunization review and updates
- Recommendations for diet, exercise, and healthy lifestyle habits

### An Annual Physical Exam DOES NOT Include:

- Evaluation of new or worsening medical problems
- Management of chronic medical conditions requiring treatment changes
- Medication refills
- Diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury

### WHEN IS AN OFFICE VISIT AND AN ANNUAL PHYSICAL EXAM BOTH NEEDED (COMBINATION VISIT)?

If new medical problems, chronic condition follow-ups, or medication refills are discussed during your Annual Physical Exam, this is considered a combination visit and must be billed differently than just a physical or an Office Visit.

Examples include:

- High blood pressure
- High cholesterol
- Diabetes
- Depression or anxiety
- ADD/ADHD
- Weight management
- Medication refills

### DIFFERENCE IN THE BILLING PROCESS

Annual Physical Exams are billed as preventive care only. Combination visits have an additional office visit billed with the Annual Physical Exam. Combined visits may result in patient responsibility such as copays, coinsurance, or deductibles. Combined visits are billed differently to account for the additional work and expertise. It involves additional documentation as well. Since additional services were provided, you would be charged more than just for the routine Annual Physical.

### HOW COMBINATION BILLING AFFECTS ME

Many insurance companies acknowledge the Office Visit/Annual Physical Combination visit, but some insurances still require the patient to pay a copay, coinsurance, or balance towards a deductible for combination visits. Please check with your insurance company to confirm your coverage for all types of doctors' visits. We realize this can be confusing and if you have any questions or concerns after reviewing this material, please ask.

### LAB WORK AND FOLLOW-UP VISITS

Laboratory tests may not be fully covered by insurance. If lab results require discussion, a follow-up visit (in-person or telehealth) may be necessary and billed separately from your Annual Physical Exam.

\*It is the responsibility of the patient to know if an Annual Physical is covered by their insurance and how often one can be performed. \*

Patient Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_