

INTERNAL MEDICINE ASSOCIATES OF WESTPORT, P.C.

162 KINGS HIGHWAY NORTH, WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT 06880

(203) 226-0731

FAX (203) 226-1792

www.IMAWPC.com

ROBERT A. ALTBAUM, M.D.

ROBERT D. DRESNER, M.D.

JILL G. DENOWITZ, M.D.

JAY A. HORN, M.D.

NINA S. KAROL, M.D.

ROBERT C. TELTNER, M.D.

DAVID H. BAUM, M.D.

To: Our Medicare Patients

Subject: Medicare Annual Wellness Visit (MAWV)

Dear Patients:

This letter is to inform you of a new cost-free service that Internal Medicine Associates of Westport is pleased to offer our Medicare patients. Beginning this year, Medicare completely covers the cost of an Annual Wellness Visit (MAWV). We feel that this new healthcare opportunity extends your options for maintaining and maximizing good health. However, it is important to understand that the MAWV is not the same as a traditional complete physical examination. The emphasis of the MAWV is on screening and prevention, not detection and diagnosis. Medicare is very specific about what the MAWV includes and excludes. During the visit the care provider will review your medical history, identify disease risk factors such as smoking, hypertension and obesity; and make a personalized prevention plan to keep you healthy. The provider will also review your list of medications and compile a list of all your current physicians. If you choose, advance care planning can also be discussed at this visit.

Importantly, according to Medicare guidelines, the MAWV does *not* include any discussion about current medical problems or complaints. The only physical exam performed is limited to measurement of height, weight and blood pressure. Within these limitations, we feel that our Medicare patients will find this service to be a valuable medical benefit since it focuses on preventive care assessment. We encourage you to set one up with our office.

In order to address specific physical complaints, or to get a comprehensive physical exam, please schedule an office visit or traditional physical exam with your physician. The usual fees for these services, which are beyond the scope of the MAWV, will apply.

As we anticipate a strong demand for the MAWV, we have added an outstanding nurse practitioner, Beth Carlson Touhy, MSN, APRN to our provider family to perform this service, among others, for our patients. This was done in order for us to provide you with your MAWV without a disruption of our usual patient care. Beth comes to us with many years of experience in caring for adults with a wide variety of medical conditions. She has particular interests in diabetes, osteoporosis and rheumatology. Beth's professional background includes both private practice and hospital care at Yale University. She will have the needed time and availability to schedule your MAWV. After your visit, Beth will share the results with your doctor.

To schedule your Medicare Annual Wellness Visit or to get further information please contact our office.