

## Medicare gynecology examinations

### Routine physicals

Although Medicare has approved coverage for a cancer-screening exam including breast and pelvic exam as well as pap smear, these services are only a portion of the exam and time spent in the physician's office at an annual gynecology exam at Optum

The consultation part of the exam includes a review of your present and past medical history, family history, and social history. Issues frequently discussed include menopausal symptoms, osteoporosis and advisability of hormone replacement therapy. None of this is covered under the Medicare approved exam.

Since the consultation and examination provided at Optum is a full preventative service, this is how we code and bill it. The limited exam covered by Medicare does not meet our clinical quality standards. However, we will bill Medicare for that portion of the exam that they do cover and use the reimbursement to reduce your costs. Please note that even with this limited review, Medicare will only pay for this every 2 years unless you have a "high risk" illness listed under their guidelines, such as a gynecological malignancy.

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We do apologize for the complexity of this explanation and truly wish it were simpler. These rules are made and enforced by the Federal government.

### Special Problems

If you report a problem or are found to have one at your checkup, your gynecologist may bill Medicare for the additional work done for that purpose in addition to the preventative service exam. We will apply any payment from Medicare to reduce your costs, but the payment will only be a fraction of the cost of the preventative service.

As always, we appreciate the opportunity to discuss your questions and concerns. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to be of service.

Please contact your providers offices if you have any questions.