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Women's Clinic
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Children's Clinic
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR WELL WOMAN EXAM

Our office makes every effort to follow the current coding practices for reporting medical services as required by **FEDERAL LAW** and the **AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**. These regulations can be confusing and complicated, generating many questions. We hope this handout clarifies the rules that we must follow by LAW regarding billing for **PREVENTIVE** and **SCREENING** services.

WHAT IS AN ANNUAL EXAM?

Annual exams are also called routine exams, yearly exams, annual Pap or preventive visits. It usually refers to a once-a-year visit to your Gynecologist for a general health check including a breast exam and Pap test, if needed. An annual exam does NOT include discussion of new problems or a detailed review of chronic conditions.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT DURING MY ANNUAL EXAM?

- A complete history and physical examination including a breast and pelvic exam
- Pap test
- Review of health history
- Review of family health history
- Review of current medications, herbs and supplements
- Refills on current medications
- Discussion regarding sexually transmitted infection prevention, diet and exercise, stress management, smoking cessation, self breast exams, birth control, menopausal symptoms and hormone replacement therapy.
- Evaluation for the need for health screening tests such as mammogram, bone density testing, colonoscopy, lipid profile and STD testing.
- Immunization administration, vaccine products and other procedures are not included.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I HAVE A NEW HEALTH PROBLEM WHEN I COME FOR MY ANNUAL EXAM?

We value your time and understand that it is difficult to arrange your schedule to come and see us. We will be glad to address these issues at the same time, barring any time constraints. If the extra time needed is not available on the Doctor's schedule or your schedule, a separate appointment may need to be made. If on the other hand, both your annual exam and problem visit are consolidated on one day, we are required by **LAW** to submit our claims based on the documentation in the medical record of the services provided to you. **YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY MAY REQUIRE THAT WE COLLECT MORE THAN YOUR USUAL CO-PAY.**

WHAT IF I HAVE MEDICARE/Blue Advantage?

- Medicare covers Pap tests every two years. If you are considered high risk, Medicare will pay for a Pap test every year.
- Medicare pays for mammograms every year, as well as colon cancer screening, cholesterol screening, and diabetes screening annually.
- Medicare pays for routine vaccinations.
- **Medicare does not pay for a routine annual physical!** You may choose to pay out of pocket for routine physicals and tests.

Our Doctors cannot comply with any requests to improperly alter the medical records for the purpose of obtaining payment by billing for a "Sick Visit" when no other major problems were evaluated.

While we regret that your insurance carrier may not pay for more of your medical care, you as the insured will be responsible for payment, as dictated by your insurance plan, of all co-payments and deductibles at the time of service.

Our experienced business department will gladly answer any questions and help you understand what your insurance provider expects from you.

Providing high quality healthcare remains our first priority. Thank you for allowing us to assist with your healthcare needs.

SIGNATURE

DATE