



**OFFICE VISIT VS. PHYSICAL OR BOTH?**

**OFFICE VISIT:** This is a visit to discuss new or existing medical issues. The exam and questions will focus on the reasons for the visit. This could also be a visit to follow-up on chronic problems (Diabetes, Cholesterol, Blood Pressure, etc.). During this visit, your healthcare provider may prescribe medications, order lab tests, perform in-office procedures such as EKG, make referrals to specialists, etc.

**PHYSICAL:** This is the type of visit when the patient is asymptomatic and comes in with no complaints but wants a complete physician examination. It is a thorough review of your general well-being. The doctor will review your medical problems, perform a complete physical examination and make recommendations concerning your health. This may include general recommendations regarding diet and exercise, age appropriate immunizations and cancer screening exams such as a pap test, prostate exam or breast exam and screening lab work. Ongoing chronic medical problems and medication refills can be addressed as long as the condition is stable and does not require a significant change in treatment or additional tests.

**OFFICE VISIT/PHYSICAL:** This is when a physical exam and office visit take place during the same appointment. For example, if you presented today for a Physical and you have an acute or chronic issue that you would like addressed, it is considered a combination visit and must be billed differently than just a Physical or an Office Visit.

**WHY IS IT BILLED DIFFERENTLY?**

It is billed differently to account for the additional work (additional lab work, x-ray,

referrals and/or prescription medications) and expertise. It involves additional documentation as well. For example, think about taking your vehicle in for an oil change (routine maintenance), and mentioning to the mechanic that your brakes are squeaking. In addition to the oil change, you might require additional brake work. Since additional services were provided, you would be charged more than just for the routine maintenance.

**HOW THIS AFFECTS ME?**

Although many insurance companies acknowledge the Office Visit/Physical combination, some of them still require the patient to pay a copay or have additional costs applied to his/her annual deductible or coinsurance.

Physicals target preventative care and are billed as such. Medication refills and/or other ailments, injuries, or illnesses addressed during the Physical are billed **IN ADDITION** to the Physical. These charges may be passed on to the patient. Please check with your insurance company to confirm your coverage for all types of doctor visits. We realize this can be confusing, and if you have any questions or concerns after reviewing this material, please ask.

***Print Patient's Name and Date of Birth:***

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***Patient's Signature:***

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***Today's Date:***

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*We exercise the highest level of integrity with our billing practices. Our goal is provide excellent medical care to our patients and reduce their overall healthcare cost.*