

FORMS AND NON COVERED SERVICES

Please note that it is my policy to charge for forms completion. See the payment policy of 06/20/2006 for more on this. “**Non-covered services.** Please be aware that some – and perhaps all – of the services you receive may not be covered or not considered reasonable or necessary by Medicare or other insurers. You must pay for these services in FULL at the time of visit. Examples of non covered services are: missed appointment charges (\$35), returned check fee (\$25), completion of forms (\$10).”

Completion of forms includes letters written for you to your school, employer, lawyer, judge or anyone else.

In addition, statement fee (\$15) if I have to bill you for your co-pay. Please turn in your co-pay at your appointment.

Records released at 75 cents per page in accordance with New York State Public Health Law. (To other doctors- complimentary)

FAQs

Q: Isn't this covered in the cost of my appointment?

A: No, your appointment covers E and M, evaluation and management of a problem. A “physical” covers discussion of prevention of medical problems, health maintenance, the physical itself and referral for age appropriate screening tests. Most insurance companies do not cover work physicals.

Q: You used to do it for me before for free. Why are you charging me now?

A: The health care environment is becoming more costly. Medical Malpractice insurance could go up anywhere from 10-25% this year. It went up 14% last year. There is a threat of a \$50,000 charge to every physician in New York State to ease the malpractice crisis here. However, Medicare's reimbursement formula is flawed and scheduled to go down by 0.5% this year. And other insurances follow whatever Medicare does. Medicine is one of the few professions where the costs consistently increase far greater than inflation and the payment stays stagnant. Some docs are charging their patients membership fees in order to cover this. Some just increase the number of patients seen per day (and decrease the amount of time per visit to 10-15 minutes). I prefer to charge only for the services used.

Q: Come on doc, it will take you only a minute!

A: If you need a **physician** to fill out the form, please note that it is not just a matter of a minute and some ink, it is my name, reputation and license on the line and there are costs associated with this. If you do not need a doctor to sign your form, then maybe your mom can do it.

Q: Are there any exceptions?

A: 1) School and daycare forms for children (up to and including high school) if they have had a physical within the past year. (also not covered by your insurance, just a courtesy)

2) Disability forms when I have put you on disability. Please don't ask me to fill out your disability form when your specialist has put you on disability.

3) Preoperative clearance forms when you have come in for a preoperative physical. If you have not come in within 14 days before your surgery, a visit will be required or there will be a charge.

EXAMPLES of forms that will be charged (may not include all types of forms)

Handicapped parking permits
Illness/Injury Insurance Forms
FMLA Family and Medical Leave Act
College physical
Work physical
Immunization Form for school/work/other
Camp physical,
Boy scouts/Girl Scouts
Insurance applications
Adoption/Foster parent physical
Prior Authorization for brand name drugs
Authorization for Out of Plan Health Care
ETC.

Letters written on your behalf for your school, lawyer, judge, employer, application, adoption, verifying health status or anything else.

Thank you very much for your understanding. It is only through enforcement of this policy that I can afford to give the kind of care I want to. High quality care, same day/same week appointments, punctual appointments 30-60 minutes in length, online scheduling, email etc.

Naureen Mohamed MD

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