



## ANNUAL PHYSICAL EXAM NOTICE

Dear Patient,

Your appointment for today has been scheduled as an annual physical exam. When we bill your insurance, it will be charged as an annual physical exam.

This is important for you to know because many insurers' reimbursement for annual physicals is limited to the physical exam only. Some patients have told us they were surprised to find out that their insurance company does not include routine screening tests (such as labs, a chest x-ray, and an EKG) as part of their covered annual physical. Furthermore, problem-related treatment (such as management of diabetes, addressing blood pressure issues, or treatment of back pain) is not reimbursed when we bill for a physical.

Accordingly, we have established the following policy for annual physicals:

- 1) **Appointments for annual physicals will be limited to the physical only.** Due to insurance reimbursement policies, we are restricted from providing problem-related services at these appointments. If you wish to address new or long-term health problems at today's visit, we cannot charge it as a physical.<sup>[1]</sup> This includes prescription renewals.
- 2) **Tests will be ordered according to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) guidelines.** Most insurance policies will cover these tests.<sup>[2]</sup> The USPSTF provides recommendations for preventive medicine screening tests and studies. An overview of these recommendations is available at our front desk. If you are interested in any additional testing, please let the nurse or doctor know.

If you wish to focus on specific health problems – either old or new – at today's appointment, we can reschedule your annual physical for another day. Please let the front desk personnel know this before the nurse brings you back to the exam room so we can change your appointment type in our system

We realize that in some cases this may cause inconvenience. We regret that insurance payment policies have led us to make this business decision. Your understanding of our situation is greatly appreciated.

By signing, you acknowledge that you have read and understand this policy.

Patient Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> Insurance companies and Medicare consider preventive care (such as an annual physical exam) and problem-related treatment (such as treatment of high blood pressure or a sprained ankle) to be different services. Insurance reimbursement for both services at the same appointment is typically denied.

<sup>2</sup> It is in your best interest to know what services, procedures, and tests your health insurance policy will cover. When our front desk personnel confirm insurance coverage, the information we get from your insurance company is very basic and general. The specific details of your individual plan are not available to us. If you have questions about the finer points of your policy, please contact your employer or your insurance carrier.