



Dear Parents:

We have developed this letter to help explain the **billing practices of Pediatric Care of Kentucky, PSC.**

We are happy to discuss health matters at visits but billing is based on complexity of the problem and time involved, so some encounters result in higher charges than others. We do not make up these rules but must attend seminars and educate ourselves to be up to date on coding procedures.

Some parents have wondered why they are billed for a sick visit and a well-child care visit when their child has a physical. We must bill according to current CPT coding guidelines established by Medicare. "Well child" includes routine visits, but if problems are discussed, medications or tests are ordered, or referrals are made for example, there may be an additional charge (sick) to cover the additional time and complexity of the visit. Some examples:

- 6- month old found to have ear infection at checkup; prescription written, discussion of problem is not part of routine well-child visit.
- 14 year-old with menstrual problems, uncovered at check-up, that she has lab work ordered to check for polycystic ovary syndrome and other hormonal problems; not part of the routine well-child visit.
- 10 year-old with Attention Deficit Disorder or asthma at annual physical; need refills or change of prescription medications, questionnaires to assess status of the condition, in addition to the other routine questions and findings on typical well-child visit; not part of the routine well-child visit.

Some diagnoses may not be covered by insurance companies like obesity, dental caries, and behavioral issues. Your insurance may withhold a co-payment when your child is brought in for an outpatient visit, lab services may be applied to a deductible as well as the M-chat form, used for autism screening and recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics as standard of care.

Our physicians' charges may not be covered 100% by your insurance. Our physicians explain their plan of treatment before services are rendered; they cannot tell you whether your insurance will cover all of their services. Unfortunately, it's not until the service is processed by your insurance that patient financial responsibility may result.

It's best that you contact your health insurance carrier for questions on covered services before scheduling appointments. Our billing staff is always available to answer any questions you may have.

Thank You,

Pediatric Care of Kentucky, PSC

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