



Acct Number:

2822 Jackson Blvd., Suite 101
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702
605.341.1208 (office) ♦ 605.341.3552 (fax)
www.creeksidemedicalclinic.org

Understanding Your Annual Preventative Health Services

Dear Patient,

Our goal at Creekside Medical Clinic (CMC) is to provide you with the best medical care possible. Annual physicals or preventative visits give our providers a chance to address your overall physical and emotional wellness. The preventative care we provide during your annual physical may include (but is not limited to) a discussion of your exercise and dietary habits, lifestyle behaviors, screening labs, as well as current medications and vaccinations. We often review chronic but well-controlled medical conditions during your annual physical, i.e., high blood pressure, arthritis, diabetes, etc. Though reviewing these conditions can sometimes be included in a preventative visit, depending on the degree of difficulty or the amount of time spent, a regular office fee in addition to your preventative visit may be charged.

Regular office visits differ from preventative care in that your provider will address either new-onset, or other chronic medical conditions, or both. These types of problems need to be addressed in an appointment separate from a preventative exam. If, however, your preventative services have been adequately covered during your scheduled physical, and if there is extra time available, you may be able to address other concerns with your provider.

We are attempting to correct a possible misperception that at times we have or will “double charge” you for our services. Insurance carriers do allow providers to address additional complaints beyond your physical examination if there is time to do so. For example, if problems are found or addressed during your physical, a non-preventative office evaluation code will be generated in addition to a preventative examination office code. Because of the extra office code, your insurance may require you to pay an additional copay, coinsurance, or deductible. A preventative visit may also be changed to an office visit based on the conditions being treated or discussed. *In other words, during your scheduled physical exam, your provider may determine that the reason why you are being seen does not fall within the definition of preventative care and its corresponding coding rules.*

The coding guidelines set forth by the American Medical Association specifically state, “If an abnormality is encountered or a pre-existing problem is addressed in the process of performing this preventative medicine evaluation and management service, (...) then the appropriate Office/Outpatient code should also be reported” (*Current Procedural Terminology*, 2016). It is important for our patients to understand that **we at CMC can fail audits if we violate these coding rules.** You and others like you have entrusted us with your medical care. Please also trust that we practice integrity with our billing practices as well. Our goal is to provide excellent care and take the appropriate time in doing so. Please speak with your provider if you have any questions regarding your preventative care charges today.

Sincerely,

Your Providers at
Creekside Medical Clinic

I have read the Physical Exam & Office Visit letter and understand that I may be billed an additional charge by my insurance company. This charge may be a copay, coinsurance, or deductible, and I will be responsible for payment of this additional charge.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| _____ | _____ |
| Name of Patient | DOB |
| _____ | _____ |
| Signature of Patient or Guardian | Date |

****Please let us know if you would like a copy of this agreement for your records****