

Attention all patients 60 years of age or older and those with Medicare coverage

January 23, 2023

To our former and active patients:

First and foremost, it is such an honor to be a part of our patient's lives and we are very thankful for the trust that each and every one of you instills in us. We truly love taking care of women and adding value to their lives. We are not only physicians who are passionate about women's health, but we are also small business owners.

On January 1, 2023, Medicare reimbursement changes went into effect that have made contracting and filing claims with Medicare no longer affordable for our business. As a result of the changes, last month we notified Medicare of our intent to opt out of our contract and received a response on January 11, 2023 from Medicare with the cut off date of March 31, 2023, after which we will no longer file claims. Until then, we will continue to see Medicare patients and file claims with Medicare for services; however, as of April 1, 2023, we will no longer file claims with Medicare.

We are writing this letter to alert our Medicare patients of this upcoming change for our practice, and to give as much notice as we can for personal decision making. To assist in decision making, we are attaching a list of cash prices for our most commonly used visits in order to help Medicare patients make an informed decision in regard to continuing care with our gynecology practice or transferring care to another practice which remains contracted with Medicare. This is not a comprehensive list of our medical services, and we can provide specific information for other services either prior to the visit or during your visit if additional testing is indicated. We will certainly do our very best to avoid any surprise costs. These fee-for-service costs are subject to change as well, as inflation in the cost of running any business is a continuous reality; however, we promise to do everything in our power to continue to provide personalized, exceptional care at an affordable price.

In summary, we have notified Medicare of our intent to opt out of their contract, and we received a response from them that our last day for filing will be March 31, 2023. If your scheduled visit is on or before this day, your upcoming visit will not be impacted by the change, but future visits would be. If you are scheduled for any type of visit with any provider in our practice on or after April 1, 2023, then this change will apply and we encourage you to consider your options now in order to avoid any delay in care.

In the event, that you also have supplemental insurance coverage in addition to Medicare Part B, you will be able to file your claim, yourself, in an attempt to get reimbursed for the fees collected for your visit. Our practice will be unable to file those claims with supplemental policy carriers.

As always, we wish you the very best in health and life and encourage you all to continue to care for your bodies, souls, and minds!

Sincerely,

Angela McCool-Pearson, MD

Christy James Guepet, MD

Southern Women's Specialists
Fee for service costs as of January 1, 2023:

Established patient women's wellness	\$200.00
New patient women's wellness	\$250.00
Established patient visit for problem/symptoms	\$150.00-\$200.00
New patient visit for problems/symptoms	\$200.00-\$300.00
Ultrasound	\$200.00-\$250.00
After hours calls	\$75.00