

Understanding Office Visits and Billing Practices

The physicians and staff at Ellicott City Pediatrics are committed to providing and maintaining the best possible care for our patients. Your review of billing practices in advance allows for good communication and common understanding.

Insurance company billing policies dictate that we differentiate between two types of services

➡ Wellness Services

➡ Problem Oriented Services

What may be included in Wellness Services? (also known as preventative visit or physical or well child check)

- ❖ Age appropriate history
- ❖ Age appropriate medical exam
- ❖ Anticipatory guidance (such as reducing fall risks for early walkers)
- ❖ Review and interpretation of recommended labs
- ❖ Preventative counseling (such as proper nutrition)
- ❖ Review of vaccine history

What other preventive related services will be billed separately?

- ❖ Vaccine products and administration
- ❖ Routinely recommended labs (these are typically performed by another provider and you will receive a separate bill)
- ❖ Screenings (such as vision, hearing, developmental & behavioral screens)

During wellness visits we perform all recommended screening appropriate to age and gender and seek to uncover any conditions that would lead to suboptimal health in the years to come. These screens are recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). The use of screening tools also allows us to begin treating conditions in their earliest stages. These screens are considered a problem oriented service by most insurance plans and therefore may generate cost sharing in the form of a copayment, co-insurance, and/or deductible.

The Affordable Care Act makes many wellness and/or preventative services covered in full by most insurance plans. However, this is not true of many problem-oriented services. Management of medical diagnoses, including the need for medication refills of any sort, is categorized by insurance companies as problem-oriented services. Evaluation and/or management of any complaint and/or symptom offered by a patient or identified upon questioning during a wellness exam constitutes a problem oriented service which may result in your insurance company processing your claim using both wellness benefits and problem oriented benefits.

Problem Oriented Services

Some common examples of problem oriented services include, but are not limited to:

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| ❖ Illness addressed (eyes, ears, nose, throat, cough, fever, rash, etc.) | * GYN concerns |
| ❖ Chronic conditions addressed
(e.g., obesity, asthma, ADHD/ADD) | * Lactation services |
| ❖ Behavior Concerns | * Suture Removal |
| | * Anxiety/Depression |

Examples of screening services include but are not limited to:

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| ❖ Cholesterol, Lead, Hemoglobin Screening | * Spirometry |
| ❖ Vision tests | * Mental Health questionnaires |
| ❖ Hearing tests | * Adolescent questionnaire |
| ❖ Developmental screenings (i.e.: 9,12mo questionnaires) | * Autism screening (MCHAT) |

Our medical practice wants to provide the most up to date, comprehensive care possible, which is why we address these issues during wellness visits. Additionally, we try to eliminate the need for the patient to return to the office, whenever possible. We are a medical provider and provide medical care based on the AAP medical recommendations and guidelines. Your insurance recommendations and guidelines may differ. It is the responsibility of the patient/guardian to be aware of their insurance plan benefits and coverage. Deductible, co-pay, coinsurance or out of pocket expenses agreed upon between you and your insurance company are out of our control. Again, it is your responsibility to know your insurance coverage. Contact them directly if you have any question about how they processed payment for your visit to us.

Ellicott City Pediatric Associates PA

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