

Important Information for our Patients Regarding Annual Well Woman Exams

MOST INSURANCE COMPANIES PAY FOR ONLY ONE ANNUAL EXAM PER 12 MONTHS
- PLEASE MAKE SURE IT HAS BEEN 12 MONTHS OR GREATER -

Our office makes every effort to follow the current coding practices for reporting medical services as dictated by Federal law and the American Medical Association (the AMA). These regulations can be quite complicated and generate many questions from our patients. The purpose of this handout is to clear up any confusion caused by these complicated rules regarding the billing of Preventive and Screening services.

Annual Well Woman or a Preventive Visit includes:

- Complete history and exam in addition to a breast and pelvic exam. The physician will ask questions about other medical conditions and discuss risk factors such as sexually transmitted disease prevention, diet and exercise, stress management, smoking cessation, self breast exams, birth control, menopausal symptoms and hormone replacement therapy.
- Collection / preparation of pap smear specimen to the lab is included, fee for the test is separate
- Laboratory and diagnostic tests such as bone density testing and mammogram may be ordered, fee for the test is separate.
- Immunization administration, vaccine / toxoid products and other procedures are NOT included.

The annual exam is preventive and the appointment is reserved for a preventive check up. Discussions about problems and conditions for which you are already being treated that are under control are considered an integral part of the Well Woman exam.

If the purpose of your appointment is to discuss some health issues or problems that you are experiencing, you should make an appointment for evaluation or treatment of those problems, not an appointment for an annual exam.

If you did not schedule the appropriate “**problem visit**,” and then a separate problem is identified during the course of the Annual Exam, we will attempt to work you in that same day if possible for your annual exam. Otherwise, you may need to reschedule your annual appointment for another time. We are required to submit our claims based on the documentation in the medical record of the service provided to you. If we see you for both an Annual Exam and a problem on the same day, we are usually not reimbursed for the Annual Exam. Additionally, we reserve the amount of time needed in the daily schedules for Annual Exams, Problem Visits, Obstetrical Visits, or Surgeries. The time scheduled for an Annual Exam does not allow adequate time to discuss or treat a “Problem Visit.” Patients do not always realize that these are separate types of appointments on the daily schedules.

OUR DOCTORS CANNOT COMPLY WITH ANY REQUESTS TO IMPROPERLY ALTER THE MEDICAL RECORDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING PAYMENT BY BILLING AN ANNUAL EXAM AS A “PROBLEM VISIT” WHEN NO OTHER MAJOR PROBLEMS WERE EVALUATED. SOMETIMES, PATIENTS WILL CLAIM THAT THEY WERE HERE FOR A PROBLEM, NOT AN ANNUAL IN ORDER FOR INSURANCE TO COVER THE APPOINTMENT. NOW THAT MOST INSURANCE PLANS ARE COVERING ANNUAL SCREENINGS 100%, SOME PATIENTS ARE TRYING TO GET THE PROBLEMS BILLED AS PART OF THE ANNUAL EXAM IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY DEDUCTIBLE OR COPAYS. THEN, SOME PATIENTS EXPECT TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL EXAM AND THE PROBLEM VISIT AT THE SAME SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT REGARDLESS, BUT AGAIN, THESE ARE RECOGNIZED AS TWO SEPARATE TYPES OF APPOINTMENTS.

While we regret that nationally accepted billing guidelines may affect reimbursement of your charges, we will continue to follow them. You as the patient and insured will be responsible for payment as dictated by billing guidelines or your insurance plan for all co-payments and deductibles at the time of service.

Providing you with high quality healthcare remains our first priority. We thank you for choosing us to assist you with your healthcare needs.

Respectfully,

Vernon & Waldrep OB-GYN Associates

Printed Name of Patient

Signature of Patient

Date

Texas Law – Healthcare Workers

I understand that Texas law provides and I agree, that if any healthcare worker is exposed to my blood or other bodily fluid (i.e., needle stick), to allow Vernon & Waldrep OB-GYN Associates to perform a test on my blood or other bodily fluid to determine the presence of any communicable disease, including, but not limited to, hepatitis and human immunodeficiency virus (which is the causative agent of AIDS).

I understand that such testing is necessary to protect those who will be caring for me while I am a patient of Vernon & Waldrep OB-GYN Associates.

I understand that the results of such tests DO NOT become a part of my medical record. I certify that I understand and agree to abide by this law in the case of an accidental exposure.

Patient Signature

Date