

**TO MY PATIENTS:**

I always strive to provide the best medical care for my patients. To this end, your visits with me often encompass various tests. For patients without insurance, I am able to bill you directly for these tests. However, for patients with managed care insurance, the insurance company requires the use of an outside lab. The most common of these labs are Clinical Pathology Lab (CPL,, Lab Corp, Quest Diagnostics, Propath and MDL.

Your lab work is sent to one of the designated labs, the lab bills your insurance, and any portion of the lab that is your responsibility is billed to you **by the lab**. I do not have any control over the billing by the lab. My medical staff and I make every effort to correctly code the lab requisition forms, and we are almost without error in doing so.

If you experience a difficulty with your lab bill, please contact the lab directly. Labs have been known to tell you “your physician did not code the lab correctly”, that is not a correct statement. What they usually mean is that your insurance did not pay for the test because it was a non-covered expense.

Why would an expense be non-covered? Your employer chose a plan (or plans) that had a menu of benefits. Some plans cover Well woman (annual preventative exams), some cover Well Woman with a limit, and some do not cover Well Woman visits at all. Some lab tests are included in your insurance company’s preventative coverage, and some are not. I determine which labs are needed based upon my judgement of **medical necessity for you. These tests may not be covered by your insurance plan.**

I regret that I cannot intervene in the lab billing issues and that I cannot provide pricing information for these tests, or control what is or is not covered. What I can do is to continue to provide you with excellent medical care and a continuing interest in your health and well-being.

**Jose F. De Leon, M.D.**

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**Patient Signature**

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**Date**

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