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WELL – CHILD SERVICE POLICY

Good health care for newborns, infants, children, and adolescents begins with the well-child visit (checkup) and other services that help keep children healthy. "These are the following preventive services". **Assessing Growth and Nutrition; Sexual Maturity Stages; In-toeing and Out toeing; and Spine, Blood Pressure, Anemia, Cholesterol, Urine, Hearing & Vision screening . Preventive medicine is a service without a sign, symptom, condition, or illness.** Our doctors and staff provide these services based on a plan called Bright Futures. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) made this plan to help doctors and families know what preventive service children should receive from birth to 21 years of age, such as screening tests, and advise about staying healthy and safe. This plan can be altered to suit each child as needed. We also follow the AAP vaccine schedule for newborns, infants, children and adolescents.

Because preventive service are important to keeping children healthy, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (health reform law) includes a rule that all preventive care screening and services included in the Bright Futures plan and vaccine schedule must be covered by most plans. **This is not always true, though, as some older plans, called grandfather plans, do not have to pay in full for preventive services.**

There may also be times when a child needs a service that is not considered preventive on the same day as a well-child visit. If the child is not well or a problem is found or needs to be addressed during the checkup, the physician may need to provide an additional office visit. If you have a co-payment or coinsurance or deductible, amounts that you must pay before your health plans pays for these services, our office will charge you these amounts. _____ Initials.

We value your time and want to make the most of each appointment for the child. This is why we will address any problem that needs a doctor's care during well- child visits so that only one trip is needed. Some services that may be provided and **billed in addition to** preventive services include

The doctor's work to address more than a minor problem which will be billed as an office visit, (eg, if the doctor gives a prescription, order tests, or change care for known problem

Medical treatments (eg, breathing treatments)

Any surgery (eg, removing splinters or something the child put in his or her nose or ear)

Test performed in the office that is not included in the Bright Futures plan

Our office does not want you to be surprised by a bill but must always bill your health plan based on the actual services provided. Please feel free to ask questions about services that may not be paid in full by your health plan on the day of your visit. It is our pleasure to help.



What's the difference between a sick and a well visit?

Sick visits are focused on symptoms and ailments. These would include coughing, sore throats, asthma attacks, stomach aches, and headaches. Well visits are examinations of the whole body. This includes

Height/weight
Blood pressure
Hearing/Vision
Anemia, cholesterol, and urine screens
Vaccinations

When is a well visit also considered a sick visit? AKA why did I get charged an extra fee?

No one likes extra fees! That's why here at Sierra Pacific Pediatric Associates we do not charge additional fees for filling out physical forms. However there are times an insurance company may ask for an additional fee, usually if during a well visit there is a problem considered outside the regular physical. Although there is no knowing exactly when an insurance company will consider a visit both a well and a sick visit, usually the difference is the documentation. Problems that don't require any documentation or follow up in general are considered part of a well visit, whereas symptoms that require follow up, referrals, and most prescriptions generally are considered separate.

Example 1: a baby is seen for vaccines and we advise using barrier creams such as Desitin for diaper rash. As there is no need for additional documentation or follow up the insurance company will likely consider this incidental to the well visit.

Example 2: a baby seen for vaccines has a persistent diaper rash that has not gotten better with standard barrier creams and anti fungals. The child is diagnosed with Acrodermatitis Enteropathica, and prescribed Oral Zinc drops. This added documentation will likely be considered separate by your insurance company.

Hey Doc, can I ask a question about my other child?

Absolutely! And for problems that do not require any documentation or follow up we will not need to check you in. But please also bear in mind that if we do not need any documentation we also will not be able to follow up on these problems if you have questions in the future. If it wasn't documented, it didn't happen, for good and for bad!

Hey Doc, can I have you take a look at my other child!

Absolutely! Although looking at another child we often will need to document what we see, and for most insurance this may entail a visit.

Signature: _____

Date: _____