

## OFFICE VISIT VS PHYSICAL OR BOTH:

Providers at Doctors First bill your insurance (if applicable) based upon the details of your visit. Medical necessity determines our services and coding. Please find the definitions of our visits below.

**OFFICE VISIT:** This is a problem-based visit to discuss new or existing medical issues. The exam and questions will focus on the reasons for the visit. This could also be a visit to follow up on chronic problems (Diabetes, Cholesterol, Blood Pressure, etc.) During this visit, your healthcare provider may prescribe medications, order lab tests, perform in-office procedures, and/or make referrals to specialists.

**ANNUAL PHYSICAL:** This is the type of visit is preventative when the patient is asymptomatic and comes in with no complaints but wants a complete physician examination. It is a thorough review of your general well-being. The doctor will review your medical problems, perform a thorough complete physical examination and make recommendations concerning your health. This may include recommendations regarding diet and exercise, age-appropriate immunizations.

- Complete physical examination
- Immunization review and update
- Age-appropriate heart disease screenings
- Recommendations for diet and exercise

Ongoing chronic medical problems and medication refills can be addressed as long as the condition is stable and does not require significant change in treatment or additional tests.

**OFFICE VISIT AND PHYSICAL (BOTH):** This is when a physical exam and office visit take place during the same appointment. For example, if you presented today for a physical and you have an acute or chronic issue that you would like addressed, it is considered a **combination visit** and must be bill differently than just a Physical or an Office Visit.

## DIFFERENCE IN BILLING PROCESS

It is billed differently to account for the additional work (additional lab work such STDs, x-ray referrals and/or prescription medications) and expertise. It involves additional documentation as well. Since additional services were provided, you would be charged more than just for the routine annual physical.

## HOW THIS COULD AFFECT ME

Many insurance companies acknowledge the Office Visit/Physical combination, some of them still require the patient to pay a copay or have additional costs applied to his/her annual deductible or coinsurance. Physical target preventative care and are billed as such. Medications refills and/or other ailments, injuries, or illnesses addressed during the Physical are billed in addition to the physical. These charged may be passed on to the patient. Please check with your insurance company to confirm your coverage for all types of doctors visits. We realize this can be confusing and if you have any questions or concerns after reviewing this material. Please ask.

Patient signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_