

Payment Policy

How much will I have to pay today?

It is important that you understand *your* insurance policy. Everyone's insurance policy is different. Some insurance covers all services (office visits and procedures). Some insurance pays a percentage of the charges for office visits and procedures. *Most* have co-pay charges for office visits AND a "deductible" for procedures (surgery and certain tests). The "*deductible*" is the part that confuses many patients. Patients often assume that everything done in a doctor's office is covered by the co-pay. This is *not* true for most patients. When a patient has a "deductible," it means that the cost of office procedures (such as surgery and certain tests) is the *patient's responsibility* until the deductible is met.

In dermatology, there are numerous surgical procedures done in the office such as biopsies, growth removal, cryosurgery ("freezing"), destruction of warts, Botox for sweating, acne surgery, cancer surgery... For many patients, such procedures "go toward the deductible." This means that the patient is responsible for payment for the procedure (at the reduced amount allowed by the insurance company).

Medical facilities have real expenses that keep *increasing* with inflation. However, reimbursement for services keeps *decreasing*. Insurance companies often pay very slowly & incompletely only after stalling & harassing medical billing staff. Unfortunately, patients often put medical bills last failing to pay them promptly or pay them at all. This forces medical facilities to become stricter with collection of payment.

TODAY, you will be required to pay your co-pay and/or any unmet deductible for any procedures that you have done in this office. When you have a haircut, payment is due after the cut. When you buy groceries or other products, payment is due at check-out. Medical services are now the same. Your portion of payment is due at the time of service i.e. after your visit. Unfortunately, the office must still wait for your insurance company to pay its reduced portion (which often takes many months).

Check which of the following options you choose for today.

- 1. Payment in full *today* (co-pay and/or any unmet deductible) via cash or check
- 2. Payment in full *today* (co-pay and/or any unmet deductible) via credit card.

Signature _____

Date _____