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ENDOSCOPY CENTER FINANCIAL POLICY

Thank you for choosing our Endoscopy Center for your Gastroenterology services. You are scheduled for a procedure at Charleston Endoscopy Center or Summerville Endoscopy Center. Please read the following information prior to your procedure so that you completely understand the financial aspect of the procedure. If you have any questions please feel free to call the Patient Accounting Department at 843-793-5182.

Charleston Endoscopy Center and Summerville Endoscopy Center are Ambulatory Surgery Centers for Endoscopy procedures only. They are completely **separate** businesses from Charleston Gastroenterology Specialists, even though they are in the same building.

Fees: After your procedure, your insurance will be billed a facility fee from our Endoscopy Center and professional fees from Charleston Gastroenterology Specialists. You may receive a bill from both businesses. Your procedure **will not** be billed as an in office procedure because it will be performed in our Ambulatory Surgery Center. You may also receive separate bills for anesthesia and lab services.

LAB Specimens: We are contracted with AP Laboratories for specimen preparation. If we collect specimens for pathology (take biopsies or remove polyps) we will send them to AP Laboratories **unless you instruct us otherwise**. AP Labs will bill your insurance company for any charges incurred. You may receive a bill from AP Labs. AP Labs is in network with the majority of insurance payers that we are in network with. They will appeal any lab claims that are denied or processed as out of network, so that the claim is paid or re-processed at the in network rate. Please contact AP Labs at 877-489-2401 with specific questions regarding lab charges. Your insurance company may have an agreement with a specific laboratory. **If you prefer that your specimen is sent to a lab other than AP, please be prepared with the name of the lab when you check in on the day of your procedure. It is your responsibility to notify us at check-in if your specimen is to be sent to any lab other than AP Labs.** The following labs pick up at our office: LabCorp, Quest, Coastal Pathology, and MUSC. Roper Hospital does not process pathology specimens from outpatient facilities other than Roper facilities.

Anesthesia: If you are administered anesthesia by an anesthesiologist, Palmetto Anesthesia will submit a separate bill for their services as well. Please contact Palmetto Anesthesia at 843-899-9303 with questions regarding anesthesia.

Colonoscopies: Please be aware that there is a difference between a screening, diagnostic, and therapeutic colonoscopy, and insurance companies differ in how they pay for these. A screening colonoscopy is provided to a patient when there is no reason the procedure is being done other than to rule out colon cancer. A diagnostic colonoscopy is performed to identify the cause of a medical problem or symptom the patient is having. A therapeutic colonoscopy is a procedure in which a biopsy or removal takes place if something is found during the procedure such as a colon polyp. The type of colonoscopy can change during the procedure. We **cannot assure** you that your procedure will be billed as one type or the other. It is your responsibility to check with your insurance company to find out how they pay for each type so that you will be prepared to handle the remaining balance.

Billing and Coding: We code and bill services according to your medical record documentation. **We cannot comply with any request to improperly alter coding of your office visit or procedures.** Improperly altering coding and billing information is considered Healthcare Fraud.

Deductible/Copays: We will do our best to obtain eligibility, deductible, and precert requirements from your insurance company for the services provided and billed by Charleston Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Center. We will send you a letter or contact you by phone if you are responsible for making a payment prior to your procedure. However, it is ultimately your responsibility to check with your insurance company so that you are aware of any deductibles, co-pays, or co-insurance that you may owe. **Please contact Palmetto Anesthesia and AP Lab with questions regarding anesthesia and lab fees as well as deductible and co-insurance information for their services.**

Self Pay patients are expected to pay for services in full at the time of service. Should you be unable to pay the entire amount, **we will accept a deposit in the amount of \$350.00 prior to your procedure.**

The patient is ultimately responsible for all charges resulting from treatment provided by Charleston Gastroenterology Specialists, Charleston Endoscopy Center, and Summerville Endoscopy Center.

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