

Payment Policies

Initial Visit

We request that all new patients complete all paperwork before arriving for their initial visit. We can send the forms by mail or e-mail, or you may print out forms from our website.

On your first visit, an order may be given for a lab panel to be done if you have not had any recent testing. This can be filed by the lab to your insurance. An EKG may be administered on your first visit.

NEW PATIENTS - Please bring your driver's license or another form of picture identification to your first appointment. We will be making a copy of your identification and your insurance card for our files.

New Patient Charges

Initial visit charge is **\$150.00. (This may be covered by your insurance.)**

Please be prepared to pay by debit, credit, check or cash. Payment is due on day of visit.

Established Patient Charges

Monthly (every 4 weeks) visits for follow-up are **\$50.00**

Biweekly visits are **\$40.00**

Weekly visits are **\$30.00**

If you are seen by the doctor to address an acute illness or problem while also in the office for weight loss, your insurance may be billed and you will be responsible for your co-pay. If you have health problems that the doctor is managing along with your weight loss, insurance may be billed. Most insurance does not pay for weight loss services.

The program you are on will determine how often you will need to be seen. The right plan for you will be discussed at your initial visit with the doctor.

Insurance

At the present time, most insurance companies will not cover weight loss. We are hopeful that this will change in the not-too-distant future. We will be happy to assist you with filing reimbursement for your Health Savings Account or insurance company that we are not on plan with. We will file to Medicare if you meet the Medicare guidelines as stated below.

For Medicare beneficiaries with obesity (BMI greater than or equal to 30), traditional Medicare will cover up to 22 visits in one year. If your BMI falls below 30 during your treatment, Medicare will no longer pay for those visits. Humana, Cigna, and Viva cover obesity treatment only if provided by your primary care physician. Healthsprings will cover treatment for obesity-You must obtain a referral from you primary care physician to see Dr. Shields. Blue Advantage, UHC AARP, UHC PEEHIP will cover most of the cost-some policies

Payment Policies

We are committed to providing you with quality and affordable health care. Because some of our patients have had questions regarding patient and insurance responsibility for services rendered, we have been advised to develop this payment policy. Please read it, ask us any questions you may have, and sign in the space provided. A copy will be provided to you upon request.

1. Insurance. We participate in most insurance plans, including Medicare. If we are not a provider with your insurance plan, payment in full is expected at each visit. If you do not have an up-to-date insurance card, payment in full for each visit is required until we can verify your coverage. Knowing your insurance benefits is your responsibility. Please contact your insurance company with any questions you may have regarding your coverage.
2. Co-payments and deductibles. All co-payments and deductibles must be paid at the time of service. This arrangement is required by your insurance company.
3. Non-covered services. Please be aware that some – or perhaps all – of the services you receive may not be covered or may not be considered reasonable or necessary by Medicare or other insurers. You must pay for these services in full at the time of visit.
4. Proof of insurance. You must complete our patient information form before seeing the doctor. A copy of your driver's license and current valid insurance information is required to provide proof of insurance. You may be responsible for the balance of a claim, if we do not have valid insurance information.
5. Cancellation and missed appointments. Our policy is to charge for missed appointments or appointments not canceled prior to 24 hours of the appointment time. This charge, **\$25.00**, will be your responsibility and billed directly to you. This will enable other patients to use that appointment time.
6. Claims submission. We will submit your claims and assist you in any way that is reasonable to obtain payment of claims. Your insurance company may need you to supply certain information directly. It is your responsibility to comply with their request. The balance of your claim is your responsibility whether or not your insurance company pays your claim. Your insurance benefit is a contract between you and your insurance company.
7. Coverage changes. If your insurance changes, please notify us before your next visit. We will need to make the appropriate changes in order to receive your maximum benefits. If your insurance company does not pay your claim in 45 days, the balance will automatically be billed to you.
8. Nonpayment. If your account is over 90 days past due, you will receive a letter stating that you have 20 days to pay your account in full. Any partial payment, must be negotiated with our office.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns regarding the payment policies.

By signing this form, I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Payment Policies for Healthy Weight 4 Me.

Name (please print)

Date

Signature

