

ASSESSMENT FEE DETAILS

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Dr. Sams' assessment fees and payments are generally set by the patient's insurance company. The insurance determines the value of the various services included in the assessment and then determines how much they will allow, pay the provider, and/or expect from the patient.

Dr. Sams Assessment includes: a clinical interview, review of available medical records, psychological testing, pain history, mental status evaluation, medical and psychological decision making, patient education, and transcribed report that is sent at the end of the interview to the referring doctor. Fee payment for assessment is based upon all the relevant services, not the interview length.

Finding qualified psychologists to perform the SCS clearance can be difficult. Less than 5% of psychologists have the education, training, and experience required to perform these clearances. Less qualified psychologists may exclude good candidates or be unable to educate the patient. Some psychologists take weeks or months to submit the report. Many insurances do not cover the SCS clearance or have a high mental health deductible or copay. Historically, these issues are the greatest barriers to successfully moving through the implant process.

We have dedicated our practice to resolving the above issues. For SCS clearance referrals across the country, we rely heavily on telemedicine. For all SCS cash patients, we use telemedicine which allows us to complete the clearance process quickly and efficiently. Our \$149 cash rate is lower than the Medicare copay rate, which allows most patients to proceed with clearance. All cash payments are made by credit or debit card at the time of the appointment or scheduling.

Part of the reason that Dr. Sams is able to offer such a low cash rate is that he has reduced the time it takes to complete the services he provides as part of his clearance assessments. He has been providing clearances since the 1980's. He completes most interviews in 30-45 minutes or less and submits the written report while the patient is on the phone.