

Tualatin Internal Medicine, LLC

Dear Patients,

After prolonged analysis of the current trends in medicine and a careful review of the prospects for small, independent practices I have determined that I need to make a change to my current practice model.

As you may have observed in the preceding year my practice had gained providers, but for a variety of reasons including financial realities in the current market those providers have moved on to other opportunities. I will continue to search for additional providers, but the current health care environment is dominated by large systems making it very difficult to compete and attract talented providers who share my same passion. As I enter my fifth year in solo practice, I need to make provisions to ensure that the clinic will remain viable with a reliable and talented staff who are all compensated fairly for the work that we do.

The current trend in health care places great emphasis on quantity of care rather than quality which tends to result in both patient and provider dissatisfaction, provider burnout and lower quality of care. The ever-increasing burdens placed by insurance companies include various “quality” metrics that do not yield obvious improvements in one’s health and furthermore are a distraction from the important work of your healthcare. Providers are asked to spend increasing amounts of time collecting this data to be fully compensated without value added to the patient or the provider. Additionally, the work of getting medications, imaging and procedures authorized has also increased in recent years. As a result, there have been significant increases in administrative time to accommodate these tasks without additional reimbursement.

I have considered options including joining a larger practice or closing the clinic, but I have chosen to consider strategies to maintain the existing high level of care that we provide. With that goal in mind, we will be transitioning to a membership model which may be similar to other memberships that you already belong to. I have carefully considered a dollar amount that I hope will not exclude anyone who wants to remain with the practice and yet enough to meet the current and future needs of the clinic.

There will be a separate membership agreement that outlines the specific terms including costs and services that are provided to members. In general, the cost will be between \$50.00-150.00 per member per year. Billing for membership will occur annually, beginning in June of 2022, and we ask that it be paid in full annually to avoid additional administrative burden of monthly accounting for dues, especially consider that the cost is modest. This will give individuals time to decide if they are interested in remaining as a patient with this clinic. If not, we will cooperate with transfer of records to whomever you wish to see in the future and records transfer requests are available in the office or on our website.

I hope that you will agree that our personalized care, advocacy for your health and the climate that we provide is in line with our mutual values. I’m sure that this comes as a surprise to some, and I appreciate your time and consideration as you decide in the next few months.