



Physical or Office Visit?

We would like to help our patients understand the difference between an office visit and a physical. This is especially important when we submit a bill to your insurance company for that visit. This will help you get the right service and help us serve your needs as best we can. When scheduling an appointment, our office tries to figure out how much time you need with the doctor and whether you need a physical or an office visit.

Most of the time, patients are seen at office visits. An “office visit” is an appointment time to discuss new or existing problems. The questions and exam will focus on the problems discussed. This may include prescribing medications, ordering additional tests like lab or x-ray, in-office procedures like an EKG, referrals to specialists, or discussing other treatment options.
Depending on your insurance plan, office visits are usually subject to your copay or deductible.

A “physical” or “preventive health exam” is a thorough review of your general well being. The doctor will perform a complete physical examination and make recommendations concerning your health. This may include general recommendations regarding diet and exercise, age appropriate immunizations and cancer screening exams such as a pap test, prostate exam or breast exam and screening lab work. **Discussing diagnosed illnesses, new issues or symptoms and/or refills are NOT included with a yearly physical exam.** *Depending on your insurance plan, yearly physicals are usually covered at 100% by most insurance.*

Occasionally, you may be seen for both a physical and an office visit on the same day. This means that you satisfy the requirements for both types of visits during one appointment. For example, if you scheduled a physical but also were discussing an additional problem that requires an additional evaluation and the evaluation took place during that appointment and addressed the problem separately from the physical, then you would be billed for both a physical and an office visit during the same appointment. We hope this information is helpful. We want to provide you with the highest quality medical care possible. If you need further information regarding this, please contact our office.

