

Family Healthcare of Lake Norman Description of Office Encounters

Sick Visit/Follow-Up Exam. This type of office visit usually addresses one to three acute or chronic health issues. The number and types of issues should be identified at the time the appointment is made. Additional procedures may be performed if time allows. If time is an issue, the patient may be asked to schedule another appointment. A follow-up encounter is usually required when the doctor is trying to regulate medications or ensure a condition has fully resolved. Due to the addictive nature or potential for abuse, some medications will require routine follow-ups while taking the medications. Routine follow-up blood draws required due to medications or personal health history may not have a doctor present during the blood draw. If you wish to speak to the doctor during a "blood draw" office visit, please notify the receptionist as soon as possible so that we can make the doctor available. The doctor will review the lab values and contact the patient to advise of the results. The "blood draw" visit is an office visit and does require a co-pay if your insurance requires one. Costs range from \$50 to \$250 plus.

What is provided during a Pap/Pelvic Wellness Exam? Vitals, review of medical history, pelvic exam, obtaining a specimen from the vaginal wall/uterus to check for HPV and other disease as indicated for laboratory analysis, manual and visual breast exam, coordination of additional exams such as bone density and mammography. Address minor health issues relating to female health issues. The visit also includes a written report of test results. General cost of this service is \$150 to more than \$275 depending on labs needed and other health issues addressed. Applicable insurance contract rates will be applied.

What is provided during a Routine Wellness Physical? Review of medical history, visual screening, colorblind test, vitals, diabetes screening, urinalysis (regent strip testing 10 items), hearing test (pure tone), physician's general exam of patient checking for unusual skin conditions and general health. Specific screening services may be required due to a patient's age, social/personal/family history. The practice will coordinate diagnostic services not available within the office and follow-up on the results of those screening services. If age and patient history warrant, fasting blood work will usually be accomplished. The blood work usually checks cholesterol/lipid levels, metabolism, and thyroid function. Other tests may be performed as directed by the doctor. A written report and results will be provided to the patient. The physical will also include a review of previous exams (mammogram/bone density) and/or other related issues. Minor health issues may also be addressed. Cost for this service may range from \$150 to more than \$350 based on the labs required and other health issues addressed. Applicable insurance contract rates will be applied.

Insurance Restrictions. Many of the major insurance carriers will no longer pay for sick visits on the same day as a wellness exam or reimburse at a lower rate and require the patient to pay an additional copay. The same applies to paps performed on the same day. If you come to the wellness exam with a significant health issue, you may be asked to reschedule the wellness exam since your insurance may not pay for both on the same day.