

FINANCIAL POLICY & GOOD FAITH ESTIMATES (Updated April 2023)

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- It is my responsibility to understand my insurance coverage. Southern Maryland Dietitian does not verify insurance coverage. Health insurance is a contract between the patient and the insurance company. Patients are instructed to contact their insurance company to determine their coverage for nutrition counseling. Any information provided by Southern Maryland Dietitian regarding insurance coverage is of a general nature and is not intended to replace verifying coverage by contacting your insurance company directly.
- If your insurance has expired or changed, it is your responsibility to inform the practice at least 48 hours prior to your appointment. Otherwise, you may be responsible for charges incurred.
- If you provide inaccurate or incomplete insurance information that results in unpaid claims, you may be responsible for charges incurred.
- Southern Maryland Dietitian bills for nutrition visits in units of 15 minutes. Each unit is billed at \$50.00.
- Southern Maryland Dietitian will submit claims to IN NETWORK insurance companies.
- Claims will not be submitted to OUT OF NETWORK insurance companies. Claims will not be submitted to insurance company if there is reason to believe that the claim will not be paid.
- Southern Maryland Dietitian is NOT in network with Medicare and will not bill any claims to Medicare or Medicare plans.
- Prompt pay discounts are available to self paying customers. Payment is expected at time of visit.
- Out of pocket expenses for products and services not covered by insurance will be explained and agreed upon in detail prior to service.
- Products and services that are self pay and not covered by insurance will not be submitted to your insurance company by our office.
- A credit / debit card on file is required to secure your appointment. Your credit card may be charged for No Shows and Late Cancellations. Your credit card may be charged for Copays, CoInsurance, and Unpaid Insurance Claims if patient responsibility is determined by your insurance company's Explanation of Benefits after the time of service.
- No Shows, Cancellations, and Rescheduled Appointments with less than 48 hours notice may be assessed a fee of \$100. (In case of emergency, please call or text 240-210-9357 as soon as possible to make other arrangements.)

- Reminder calls / texts / emails may be sent as a courtesy. These are usually sent out 24-36 hours prior to your scheduled appointment time. Canceling or rescheduling at this time is a LATE CANCELATION / LATE RESCHEDULE.
- I understand that I am financially responsible for all charges regardless of any applicable insurance or benefit payments. Insurance companies may provide information about coverage but this information is not a guarantee of payment. I agree to pay the balance on my account if the insurance company does not pay for my visit.
- Unpaid balances are subject to collections. Protected health information may be shared with outside parties as part of the collections process. In the case it becomes necessary for our office to enlist a collection service and/or legal assistance; you will be responsible for any collection and/or legal charges up to 35%
- The practice offers and recommends products and services in addition to medical nutrition therapy that will not be billed to insurance companies. Southern Maryland Dietitian may realize a financial benefit through sale of products and services. Patients are encouraged to consider alternative products and services as well.
- Returned checks will be subject to additional fees.

By signing this form, I certify that:

- I have read or had this form read and/or had this form explained to me.
- I fully understand its contents including the risks and benefits.
- That I have been given ample opportunity to ask questions and that any questions have been answered to my satisfaction.
- This agreement remains in effect until revoked by me in writing.
- I agree to all of the above terms.