

**Brazos Valley Endocrinology, PA**  
**Notice to All Patients**

In order to continue to be able to provide patients with the best possible endocrine care, Brazos Valley Endocrinology, PA, will no longer accept insurance plans, including Medicare and Medicaid, effective *January 1, 2014*. The practice is making this change because insurance company and government stipulations and regulations, as well as increased rules and restraints imposed by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act signed into law by President Barack Obama on March, 23, 2010, now severely limit the time we can spend with patients, treatments that can be used and covered, and even the use of new technological advancements that we believe are critical to exceptional endocrine care. After thorough consideration of the needs of our patients, we have decided to transition away from insurance companies and government programs to become a “concierge” practice with an out-of-pocket fee-for-service option for those patients who cannot commit to the concierge concept.

I will no longer file a claim with your insurance plan for services provided in our clinic due to the rising cost of overhead expenses, including current billing service payments totaling almost \$40,000 per year, along with decreased reimbursement for services provided based on the new future of health care signed into law by President Obama in 2010. However, I will be able to complete billing for each of your visits with the option for you to submit a claim for reimbursement for services provided in our clinic. If you choose to continue your endocrine care with my practice, you will need to choose between an out-of-pocket fee-for-service option or concierge endocrine care.

The out-of-pocket fee-for-service option is reasonably priced based on actual reimbursement from the Medicare fee schedule instead of the standard over-inflated fees billed to insurance companies. The duration of visit will be strictly enforced to ensure each patient is guaranteed the time allotted for the amount of endocrine care desired along with maintaining that each visit will be on-time. For any patients with diabetes, weight management, and/or three separate medical diagnoses managed in this clinic, the minimal duration of visit will be 20 minutes with preferred 20-30 minutes for patients using insulin pumps given complexity of visits and time needed for adequate documentation. The Out-of-Pocket Fee Schedule is available for you to review on this website.

Concierge medicine is a new approach being adopted by many physicians across the country that really is a return to old-fashioned care. The goal is to provide care that is more responsive, thorough, and individualized. It is an innovative approach that restores the integrity of the physician-patient relationship. Rather than several hurried appointments each day, I can care for a smaller number of patients and have the necessary time to focus on what each individual needs. The concierge practice charges an annual fee, which pays for extended time and services outside the scope of your insurance coverage. This allows me to spend whatever time is necessary, and recommend whatever testing is appropriate for your optimal care, without insurance company and government restrictions or limitations. However, your health insurance is necessary to cover cost of labs, diagnostic studies, hospitalizations, and clinic visits with other physicians.

Transition to concierge practice allows me to practice medicine the way it was meant to be practiced. My sole concern is your optimal endocrine care along with weight management. This option is simply an investment that you make in your endocrine health and well-being. We will never be rushed for time or have decisions compromised by your insurance company’s or government’s reimbursement constraints. If you have any interest in this option for your endocrine care with Brazos Valley Endocrinology, PA, please review The Concierge Care Physician/Patient Agreement available on this website.

Whether you choose the out-of-pocket fee-for-service option or concierge care, my goal is to maintain the high level of endocrine care that my patients have come to expect and deserve.

Sincerely,

Charles Douglas Crumpler, Jr., M.D., FACE  
Brazos Valley Endocrinology, PA