

FINANCIAL POLICY

We are most appreciative of your decision to allow Peds First Pediatrics to provide for your child(ren)'s health care needs. While uncomfortable, it is necessary to understand that a medical practice is a business like any other, and as such financial policies such as this are imperative. Please read this document carefully. We will be happy to discuss any aspects with you that are unclear. Before we are able to treat your child(ren) however, we require that you agree to these policies as indicated by your signature.

I. Responsible Party

- a. PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS will gladly submit claims to your health insurance for the services provided. However, any charges accrued on the account are your responsibility. You will be expected to follow up on any unpaid or incorrectly paid charges, regardless of insurance coverage. We will be happy to assist you in any way we can, but *you are ultimately responsible for timely payment of your account.*
- b. In divorce situations, the person bringing the child into the office is the responsible party. A divorce decree is a document that involves you, your ex-spouse and the courts. Although a divorce decree may state that an ex-spouse is responsible for medical bills, PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS has no authority to enforce compliance.
- c. You will be responsible for the charges accrued by minor children (under age 18) who come into the office unaccompanied, or in the presence of another caregiver (ie. grandparents, baby-sitter, etc.).
- d. You will be responsible for charges accrued by children who have turned 18 until such time as you notify PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS in writing, prior to services being provided, that you no longer accept financial responsibility.

II. Billable Services

- a. PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS will charge for physician services, as well as supplies used for the care of your children.
- b. PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS will charge for all follow-up services. The same resources (staff, room, supplies, physician time, etc.) are used for the follow-up visit, so the charges will usually be the same as the initial visit.
- c. PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS will charge for all scheduled, walk-in and after hour appointments. We will also charge for patients who are not scheduled (ie. siblings of a scheduled patient) that the physician is asked to see.
- d. Occasionally a patient will be scheduled for one type of service but the physician may diagnose and treat another problem in addition to the scheduled service. When appropriate PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS will charge for the additional service. Some insurance companies will not cover both services, which may result in a denial or higher co-pay.
- e. PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS reserves the right to charge for extensive phone calls, reporting, consultation, coordination of care with other providers and/or other services provided on your child(ren)'s behalf. Your insurance may not cover these services.
- f. PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS reserves the right to charge for missed appointments when said appointment has been confirmed, including same-day appointments. These charges will not be billed to your insurance company but will be your responsibility.

III. Portion Due at Time of Service

- a. If you have insurance coverage, all co-pays, co-insurance and deductibles are due at the time of service.
- b. Payment in full is due at the time of service from non-PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS patients (tourists, etc.), regardless of insurance coverage.
- c. Payment in full is due at the time of service from accounts with a “bankruptcy” status.

IV. Method of Payment

PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS accepts the following types of payments:

- a. Cash
- b. Check (including cashier’s checks and money orders. No third-party checks)
- c. Visa, Mastercard, Discover, and American Express credit cards
- d. Visa, Mastercard, Discover, and American Express debit cards

V. Insurance Coverage

- a. It is your responsibility to provide accurate insurance information to PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS at the time of service.
- b. PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS will create and submit claims to your health insurance on your behalf. However, we reserve the right to refuse insurance and collect payment in full from you (ie. out-of-state Medicaid, insurance information provided after claim filing deadlines, etc.).
- c. PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS will not submit claims directly to an auto insurance carrier. We will provide you with the claim form, and you will be responsible to submit the claim to the appropriate no-fault carrier.
- d. It is your responsibility to verify that the doctor you have chosen is a participating provider under your insurance plan, prior to receiving services.
- e. It is your responsibility to verify benefits under your plan. You will be responsible for any non-covered services and services considered to be over “usual, reasonable and customary (URC)”. You will also be responsible for amounts not paid by your insurance for any reason, unless the amounts are covered under PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS’s contractual agreement with insurance.
- f. PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS must, under federal law, accurately report the services provided to your children. Your insurance company may not pay for all services received. PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS cannot change the service or diagnosis codes (unless they were initially reported incorrectly) in order to make a service “fit” your insurance plan benefits. We must report the exact services provided and the exact reason for providing them.
- g. In the event that your insurance carrier mails payment to you for a claim submitted by PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS, it is your responsibility to pay that amount to PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS.
- h. Your signature on this policy authorizes PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS to release health information to insurance carriers when necessary for payment, and directs them to remit payment directly to PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS (assignment of benefits).

VI. Statements

- a. Account statements will be sent on a monthly basis for accounts that have balances owing. Statements will show both patient (private) and insurance (suspense) amounts owing. Private balances are due by the 15th of the month.
- b. It is your responsibility to provide PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS with your correct address and phone number. If a statement is returned for an invalid address, your account may be turned over to an outside collection agency.

VII. Interest

a. Interest in the amount of 1.5% of your balance per month (18% APR) will accrue on accounts with private balances older than 30 days.

VIII. Payment Plan Options

- a. PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS may, and solely at their discretion, offer monthly payment plans to help you manage your health care costs.
- b. The terms of each payment plan will be discussed, put in writing, and will require a signature to indicate agreement. The terms may vary, again, at the sole discretion of PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS
- d. Payments are due on or before the agreed upon date. If payments are late or missed your account may be turned over to an outside collection agency without further notice.
- e. Payment plans are intended to help bring past-due amounts current. All co-pays and deductibles are required at the time of service and will not be added to a payment plan.
- f. Failure to follow any or all of the payment plan requirements will render the agreement null and void.

IX. Credits

- a. Any insurance credits or over-adjustments will be returned to the appropriate insurance company.
- b. Any patient credits or overpayments will first be used to pay past-due balances, including those that may have been referred to an outside collection agency.
- c. If patient balances have been resolved, patient credits will be returned to you (or the person/organization who paid). Please allow 2-3 weeks for processing. Smaller credits (generally under \$20.00) may be left on the account to be used for future co-pays and/or deductibles.

X. Collections

- a. Your account may go to collections for the following reasons that include but are not limited to:
- Invalid patient demographic information that prevents us from contacting you regarding your account.
 - Failure to provide timely, accurate insurance information.
 - Failure to pay patient balances.
 - Failure to adhere to payment plan agreements.
 - PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS makes every effort to work with you to keep your account out of collections. However, in the event that your account is referred to a collection agency, you will be responsible for the balance of the account in addition to a 30% collection fee. You will also be responsible for any interest, service fees and/or legal fees that accrue while your account is in collections.

XI. Returned Checks

- a. Checks returned unpaid by your bank, regardless of the reason, will be posted back to your account in the original amount of the check, in addition to a \$15.00 return check fee. You may also be responsible for interest, costs of collection, court costs and reasonable attorney fees as allowed by law.

XII. Bankruptcy

- a. If PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS receives notice of a filed Bankruptcy case on your account, we will make the necessary adjustments according to bankruptcy law.
- b. Your account will be placed in “bankruptcy” status, and you will be required to pay in full at the time of service, regardless of insurance coverage. We will be happy to submit a claim to your insurance on your behalf and, if your insurance pays on the claim, you will be refunded any overpayments.
- c. Your account will remain in a “bankruptcy” status for two (2) years from the bankruptcy file date. If there has been no collection activity (multiple statements, letters, etc.) during that time, the bankruptcy status will be removed from your account and normal payment policies will apply.

XIII. Dismissal from Practice

- a. PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS reserves the right to dismiss patients from our practice for non-payment. If you have established a history of non-payment on your account, you may be eligible for dismissal.
- b. Prior to dismissal, PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS will issue a certified letter informing you of our intent to dismiss unless payment in full is made on your account. Payment in full includes your current account balance, in addition to any amounts that have been referred to an outside collection agency.
- c. If payment is not made within the specified amount of time, a certified dismissal letter will be issued. PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS will provide EMERGENCY CARE ONLY for thirty (30) days after the date of the letter to allow you time to find another physician for your child(ren). You will not be eligible to see any of the physicians at Peds First Pediatrics after the 30-day notice has expired.

XIV. Questions or Concerns

- a. If you have any questions regarding your account, or need clarification on any of the items listed in this financial policy, please contact our Billing Department.
- b. PEDS FIRST PEDIATRICS Billing Department Staff are available from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday. You can contact them by phone at (631) 732-5222 or in person weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 5 p.m.