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PODIATRIC CARE and MEDICARE

As a patient in our office, we would like to ensure your understand of our billing procedures for your insurance, Medicare. Medicare has very specific rules of coverage and payment for podiatric care. Medicare covers many types of foot care including injuries, surgical removal of toenails, bunions, hammertoes and warts, swelling, infections, arthritis, ulcers, bone spurs, rashes and other dermatological problems, foot pain, physical therapy prescribed by the doctor and many other conditions which you may have.

Medicare does not cover trimming of corns, calluses, toenails and other preventative maintenance unless you have other serious medical condition which require preventative care by your podiatrist because of reduced blood circulation or reduced sensation in your feet. The following systemic conditions might make preventative foot care payable by Medicare:

- Insulin-dependent Diabetes Mellitus if you also have neuropathy or circulatory disease.
- Peripheral vascular disease of the feet or lower legs/ atherosclerosis
- Thrombophlebitis
- Neuropathy of the feet due to malnutrition/ vitamin deficiency/ carcinoma/ drugs/ multiple scleroses/ kidney failure/ traumatic injury/ leprosy/ blood diseases
- Past amputations of parts of the feet
- History of foot ulcers plus other diseases.

Please make it known to our staff if you have conditions like these. Medicare additionally requires you currently be under the care of a primary physician for the above conditions, and that your primary physician has these conditions documented in your examination records. You must keep track of the last date you saw your primary doctor and bring this with you for each visit to our office as Medicare requires we put the doctor's name and date on our claim form. You may see the podiatrist every 60 days if you meet all the above requirements.

Toenails with fungus may be covered if they cause pain or secondary infection. If you do NOT qualify based on all of the above, we offer a cash discounted rate for routine nail care.

Medicare does not cover orthotics, arch supports, pads for hammertoes, bone spurs and corns, medications for fungal toenails, medical/post-operative shoes, and some wound dressings. They may cover casts, splints and ankle braces for injuries and other conditions.

These are the guidelines Medicare has given to our office. Further, Medicare determines the amount we may bill and collect for all covered services. We are required, by law, to follow their guidelines. If you have further questions about some condition which you believe should be payable, please call the Medicare at 1-800-633-4227.

I have read and understand that Medicare will not pay for routine foot care or the above non-covered services or supplies.

Signature:

Date: