

# Kidz1st Financial Policies

Thank you for choosing Kidz1st Pediatrics for your child's Patient Centered Medical Home. We are providing you with the following information to help you understand our insurance and billing policies. If you have any questions or concerns, please ask to speak to our office manager.

## **Patient/Parent Responsibilities**

- You must **show your current insurance card at every visit**. This is to protect you from receiving a bill because we did not have correct insurance information. We will attempt to validate your insurance benefits prior to the time of service and alert you of any problems. If we cannot validate your coverage, we may assign your account to self-paid status and request full payment at the end of your visit.
- You must **pay your co-payment at the time of the office visit**. Our contracts with insurance companies require us to collect your co-pay at the time of service. We accept cash, credit cards (Visa, MasterCard or Discover), and checks as forms of payment. In the event a personal **check is returned unpaid** from your bank, your account will be charged with a returned check fee of \$35, and your account may be placed on a "cash only" basis for one year. **Late co-pays** are subject to an additional \$10 service fee.
- If your insurance plan is subject to **routine deductibles and co-insurance**, we require you to keep a credit card on file so we can collect those charges as soon as your insurance carrier assigns the appropriate amount of patient responsibility. During the time you leave a credit card on file, if it expires or otherwise becomes uncollectable, we will expect you to promptly provide a new means of payment.
- You must **cancel any appointment for a well visit/check-up at least 24 hours** prior to your scheduled start time. Otherwise you will be assessed a missed appointment fee of \$25.
- Any appointment scheduled with Dr. Operti for **medication management** that is missed, or not cancelled within 2 hours of the appointment will be assessed a \$25 fee.
- **Know your insurance benefits**. Your insurance policy is a contract between you and your insurance company, even if your employer provides it. There are many subtle differences in insurance policies, and employers frequently change coverage and co-payments. You are responsible for knowing what services are covered (and how often, in the case of well visits), and how much of the cost is your responsibility. You will be responsible for any portion of services that your insurance doesn't cover, or for which you have a deductible that has not yet been met. If your insurance plan requires you to **choose a primary care provider**, you must contact your carrier and select our office as soon as possible. In accordance with carrier guidelines, we cannot schedule/keep and appointments or write any referrals until we receive notice that you have been added to our roster.
- If you have a **newborn or newly adopted child**, congratulations! Your child is covered for the first 30 days by the mother's policy, regardless of which parent will provide ongoing insurance

coverage. You should contact your carrier as soon as feasible to add the new child to your policy. **You must have your child added to your policy by the 2 month well visit** and should have an insurance card to present at that visit. If you have not received an insurance card, contact your insurance company **prior** to the visit to verify coverage and get an active insurance ID number. If you do not have active coverage your visit will be rescheduled/delayed, or you may be personally responsible for the bill.

- If your child is **covered by more than one insurance policy**, be sure you know which is considered primary. We must submit claims to the appropriate carrier(s) in the right order.
- If your child is seen in our office for concerns related to a **Motor Vehicle Accident** this does not get processed through your health insurer. Please provide us with the appropriate **Motor Vehicle Insurance information** and the **claim number** at the time of visit to ensure that you do not personally become responsible for the bill.
- **Carefully read all Explanation of Benefits (EOB) statements** you receive from your insurance carrier. We receive the same statements, and any charges which your insurance carrier designates as “patient responsibility” will be billed to you directly from our office if you do not have a credit card on file.
- If your account is **self-paid**, all services must be paid for at the time of your visit. This may include situations where we cannot validate active coverage with your insurance carrier. In such cases, we will collect payment at time of service and refund any amounts subsequently collected from your carrier.
- If you have valid coverage with a **participating insurance carrier**, we will file an insurance claim within five business days of your date of service. If there are any problems with this submission, we will notify you immediately and request your prompt assistance with any conditions under your control that are causing delay in processing. If your insurance carrier does not respond to our secondary submission within 60 days from the original date of service, we will send you a statement, and payment will become your responsibility. You will need to contact your insurance carrier if you think it is responsible for payment. We will expect payment from you or them within 30 days of receipt of your statement.
- If you are insured by a **non-participating insurance carrier**, we will expect payment from you at time of service, and it will be your responsibility to submit any claims to your insurance company for direct reimbursement to you. We will provide you with the appropriate information to assist you in this process.
- All **statements are due on receipt**. If charges remain unpaid after 30 days, a second statement will be rendered with a notice requesting immediate payment. If charges still remain unpaid after 60 days, a final statement will be rendered with a letter informing you that our relationship is subject to cancellation after 30 days of urgent and emergent care.
- We reserve the right to place your account with our collection agency after all internal efforts to obtain payment have been exhausted. You are then responsible for any collection costs in addition to your outstanding bill. If you are presently in collection, the practice will use its discretion as to providing you with further treatment or asking you to find another physician.