



**PLEASE READ THIS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR PROCEDURE.**

You have been scheduled for a gastroenterology procedure(s) under the care of a TDDC physician. TDDC wants to help by providing you the following information related to health plans and insurance that may affect processing of your claims.

- TDDC will work with your health plan representatives to obtain prior authorization for your gastroenterology procedure(s). Therefore, **it is imperative that TDDC is furnished with your applicable and current insurance information.**
- If your insurance plan requires a **referral authorization from a primary care physician, please present this at your initial visit. If you request an office visit or surgery without a referral authorization your insurance company may deem this as "out of network" or "non-covered" treatment, and you will be responsible for a larger amount or all of the charges.**
- TDDC will seek to verify medical benefits for planned procedures under your health plan. **If insurance verification indicates your services will not be covered, or that a significant portion of the cost will be your responsibility, our staff will attempt to contact you to discuss your payment options prior to your procedure. Whether you have been contacted or not, you are responsible for any balance after insurance processes your claim.**
- Employers now choose to purchase from a wide array of health care plans. Your health plan may have a benefit structure that will determine your out of pocket cost. We make every possible effort to obtain accurate benefits; however, our information is only as good as that provided by the health plan representatives. **For this reason, we urge you to review the health plan coverage information given to you by your employer or insurer to gain your own understanding of your insurance benefits.**
- **TDDC wants you to understand health plans may have different benefit structures for screening / diagnostic / therapeutic / surgical services.** Some services performed by gastroenterologists are done for "preventive" purposes (diagnostic) as a screening colonoscopy or screening due to family history of colon cancer or polyps. These same services can be performed because patients are experiencing signs or symptoms of illness and intervention / surgery may become part of the service provided. **Please refer to the colonoscopy informational insert if scheduled for this procedure as often a colonoscopy performed due to a personal history of polyps will be processed with the same benefits as a medical colonoscopy.**
- **TDDC wants you to be aware there will be charges related to your services from other health care providers in addition to our physician performing your procedure including:**
  - The **facility** in which you receive you care
  - The services of an **anesthesiologist.**
  - The services of **pathologists** if biopsies taken or polyps removed
- To help control costs to the health care system, **TDDC Physicians may have ownership interest in the following** service lines that may provide care to you:
  - Pharmacy
  - Pathology
  - Surgery Center
  - Anesthesia
- **Hospital based physicians such as pathologists and anesthesiologists may be out of network for your health plan, even if the hospital and the TDDC physician is in-network.** TDDC physicians do not have control over other hospital-based providers' health plan participation.

If you have any questions concerning your insurance benefits, it is your responsibility to contact customer service at your insurance company. They will be happy to help you with any questions that you may have.