



## Policies and Procedures

For all questions regarding an appointment, or to leave a general message during regular business hours Monday- Thursday 8:00-5:00 pm, Friday 10:30-1:00pm, please call (828) 974-7004.

### **Emergencies:**

If you have an emergency after business hours please call (817) 589-3803 for the Answering Service. Patients may also call Smoky Mountain Center 1-800-849-6127 or RHA Mobile Crisis 1-888-573-1006. Call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room for life threatening emergencies. The Physician On-Call is for emergencies only and cannot refill medication.

### **Prescription Refills (828) 974-7004**

Patients with scheduled appointments that are requesting refills may contact your pharmacy to send the request to 828 974-7005. **Allow 5 business days to complete your request.** Refills will not be authorized for anyone who does not have a scheduled appointment. The Physicians will authorize requests for medication refills at their discretion, based on the patient's best interest and safety. Physicians do not refill medication on weekends or holidays.

### **Controlled Substance prescriptions**

This facility utilizes the North Carolina Controlled Substance Reporting System. Stimulant medication (Schedule II controlled substances) cannot be called or faxed into the pharmacy, you will be notified when the hard copy prescription can be picked up. Please do not call the office for the status of your medication request. Staff will contact you when written prescriptions are ready to pick up or if the request was denied.

### **Prior Authorizations for Medication**

Insurance plans will often require prior authorizations for continued and newly prescribed medications. **KNOW THE MEDICINES** on your plan that require authorizations (a list is provided by your carrier), and **BRING** to your appointment, to help limit needed authorizations. It is your responsibility to schedule your appointments in a timely manner that will allow a minimum of 1 week to process the request. The Physician will often give you a voucher to use for medications that may require authorization these will need to be given to the pharmacy with your prescription.

### **Cancellations, Missed appointments**

#### **Established Patients**

As an established\* patient, we require 24hrs notification for any rescheduling or cancellations. If you do not provide 24 hour notice, or fail to show for a scheduled appointment, you will be responsible for a

\$35 charge. Please note that insurance companies will not pay for missed appointments or appointments that are cancelled late. Please note after 3 missed or cancellations, the Physician will have the option to terminate care. Reminder calls are a courtesy to patients. You are responsible for your appointment whether your reminder was received or not.

### **New Patients**

At the time of scheduling, all new patients will be required to provide a major credit card to hold your appointment. If you need to cancel or reschedule your appointment, 24hrs notice is required. Monday appts must be rescheduled or cancelled by Friday at 1pm. If an appointment is not cancelled or rescheduled within 24hrs, the credit card on file will be charged a \$90 non refundable fee.

Any matter which may include but not limited to; disability claims, workers compensation, court custodies for which Dr Bierrenbach will be asked to provide, documentation, phone consultations or other information must meet the following criteria:

- Patient has remained under Dr Bierrenbach's care consistently for one year from the date of request.
- Patients most recent appointment is within the current quarter.
- Patient is actively following treatment protocols, and adhering to scheduled follow up appointments.
- Patient acknowledges the \*administrative costs for these services will be billed according to our policy below and due upon initiation of the request.

### **Insurance Billing and Payments:**

All fees are due at the time of service (co payments, deductibles, non-covered services, lack of medical coverage)The office accepts cash, MasterCard, Visa and debit cards for your convenience. If your account is overdue more than 90 days, we have the option of canceling current and any future appointments until arrangements have been made with the Business Office.

\*Any other professional services that require longer than 5 minutes such as report writing, letters, telephone conversations (non-emergency), preparation of treatment summaries, or time spent performing any other services outside of your appointment you will be charged \$70 for each 15 minute increment, similar to the fee for treatment.

Temporary Disability and FMLA paperwork will be charged \$35. Letters such as 504's, school absences and medication letters will be charged \$10. Medical Records copying pgs. 1-25, 0.75 cents per page, pg. 26-100, 0.50 cents per page, and 0.25 cents for each page in excess of 100. We impose a minimum fee of \$10.00 for copying records.

As a courtesy to our patients we will bill Blue Cross Blue Shield Commercial, Medcost, and Medicare RWB directly for services rendered. While we make every effort to attempt to verify coverage, we are not able to guarantee that the information given to us by your insurance is correct. We encourage you to call your insurance plan directly if you have any questions about covered services prior to your appointment. In addition, you will be responsible for payment of all non-covered services at the time they are rendered. In the event that your insurance subsequently pays for services that were first treated as non-covered, you will be reimbursed. Know that it is your responsibility to notify our office if you have any insurance changes.

Please be advised that ultimately you are financially responsible for payment of medical services rendered by this office.

Patients Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient or Legal Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Office Staff Initial: \_\_\_\_\_