

Understanding Our Billing Policy for Combined Preventive Well-Child and Evaluation and Management Visits

At our practice, we are committed to providing comprehensive care for your child during every visit. This includes preventive well-child visits, which are essential for monitoring and promoting your child's health and development. However, there may be times when, in addition to the preventive services, your child needs attention for an acute illness or management of a chronic condition. In such cases, our billing policy reflects the need to address both preventive and medical care needs during a single appointment. In the most extreme case, if an acute issue is deemed complex enough to require substantial time and attention, then the Preventive Well-Child Visit will need to be rescheduled so our providers can appropriately focus on the acute issue at hand.

How Does the Billing Work?

During a scheduled preventive well-child visit, if the healthcare provider addresses a significant acute or chronic medical issue, this constitutes beyond the scope of a routine preventive visit. Examples might include diagnosing a new health condition, adjusting medication for a chronic illness, or providing treatment for an acute problem or injury. When these situations occur, it is necessary to charge for both:

1. **The Preventive Well-Child Visit:** This charge covers the routine aspects of the visit, such as growth and developmental screenings, vaccinations, and preventive health counseling.
2. **An Evaluation and Management (E/M) Visit:** This charge applies when significant medical issues are evaluated and managed during the same appointment.

Financial Responsibilities

Under our policy, when both types of visits occur simultaneously, you will be responsible for any additional copays, deductibles, or co-insurance charges typically assessed for evaluation and management visits by your insurance plan. It's important to note that while preventive care visits may be covered in full by insurance, evaluation and management visits often have cost-sharing measures like copays or deductibles.

Example Scenario:

Imagine your child comes in for their annual well-child visit, and during this visit, the provider identifies an ear infection requiring treatment. This scenario would necessitate billing for both the preventive visit (the scheduled well-child check) and an evaluation and management visit (for diagnosing and prescribing treatment for the ear infection).

Insurance Claims

For these combined visits, two separate claims will be submitted to your insurance company: one for the preventive well-child visit and another for the evaluation and management visit. You may see these as two separate entries on your explanation of benefits (EOB) statement from your insurance.

Why This Policy?

This billing approach ensures that we can provide a high level of care without having to limit the scope of our services during any given appointment. It allows for the flexibility to address both routine and unforeseen health issues in a timely and effective manner, ensuring your child receives comprehensive care.

We understand that navigating health care billing can be complex. We encourage you to contact our office or your insurance provider if you have any questions about this policy or if you need assistance understanding the charges related to your child's care. Our team is here to help ensure that you have a clear understanding of your financial responsibilities and to assist with any insurance queries you may have.