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NOTICE TO OUR PATIENTS

FOR ANNUAL/WELL-WOMAN EXAM:

An annual gynecological exam, known as “preventative management (PM)” for insurance purposes consists of a physical exam (vital signs and examination of the neck, breast, abdomen, pelvic and possibly rectum), collection of PAP smear, and certain age appropriate counseling & testing.

Additional tests performed during this visit include gonorrhea and Chlamydia screening for women under 25, or with multiple sex partners and a urinalysis for women over 40 to screen for diabetes, infection, and bladder cancer. If the PAP smear is mildly abnormal, an HPV test will be added to the PAP smear to determine further follow-up. HPV is a sexually transmitted disease (STD). Gonorrhea and Chlamydia are also STDs and these infections must be reported to the VA State Board of Health, which may contact you to inform your partner(s) regarding possible infection.

For women over 40 years old, recommended additional testing includes a yearly mammogram, yearly screening for colon cancer, screening blood work for cholesterol/diabetes/thyroid every 5 years. Mammograms are generally covered by insurance; colon cancer screening or blood work may not be. If you are having a gynecological problem (e.g. vaginal irritation, problem with menses or intercourse, hormonal issues, etc.), please be aware the evaluation and management (E/M) or ANY problem is considered outside the scope of a PM (annual) visit and is not covered by your insurance on the same day. We recommend that you make a separate appointment to discuss your problem. If you need your problem addressed today, your annual exam will need to be rescheduled.

For Consultations/Problems:

Consultations regarding current gynecological problems are generally covered, unless your insurance considers the condition “preexisting” to your current insurance coverage. Consultations for certain health maintenance issues or concerns (e.g. diet, exercise, weight loss), mental status (e.g. smoking cessation, depression, anxiety, sexual dysfunction), future concerns (e.g. preconceptual counseling, premenopause) or counseling regarding hormone replacement therapy or alternatives may not be covered. It is your responsibility to know the details of what your insurance policy covers.

For Prescriptions:

Please ask for a “Prescription Request” form to request any prescriptions refills.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

I have read and understand the components and limitations of preventative management as stated above. I am aware that some insurance plans do not cover (pay for) “preventative,” “routine” medical visits, or “preexisting” medical conditions, in which case I will be responsible for payment to this office and the laboratory services rendered.

Print Name _____ Birth Date ____/____/____

Signature _____ Today's Date ____/____/____

Witness _____ Today's Date ____/____/____