



Gus Rousonelos, MD Erin Shanks, MD Karolyn Law, MD Ushma Patel, MD Pamela Persak, MD

Well-Child Services Policy

Good health care for newborns, infants, children, and adolescents begins with the well-child visit. Our doctors and staff provide these preventative services based on a plan called Bright Futures. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) made this plan to help doctors and families know what preventative services children should receive from birth to 21 years of age, such as screening tests, and advice about staying healthy and safe. This plan can be altered to suit each child as needed. We also follow the AAP vaccine schedule for newborns, infants, children, and adolescents.

Because preventative services are important to keeping children healthy, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (health care reform law) includes a rule that all preventative care screenings and services included in the Bright Futures plan and vaccine schedule must be covered by newer health plans. This is not always true, though, as some older plans, called grandfathered plans, do not have to pay in full for preventative services.

There may be times when a child needs an additional office visit service (called a sick visit) during a well-child visit. This is a different service and is billed to your health plan in addition to the preventative services provided on that day. Some health plans require you to pay a copayment or deductible for these additional services. Our office will bill you for these amounts.

We value your time and want to make the most of each appointment for the child. When time allows, we will address a problem that needs doctor's care during well-child visits to save you an extra trip. Some services that may be provided and billed in addition to the preventative services include:

- The doctor's work to address more than a minor problem, which will be billed as an office visit (e.g., if the doctor gives a prescription, orders tests, or changes care for a known problem)
- Medical treatments (e.g., breathing treatments)
- Any surgery (e.g., removing splinters or something the child put in his or her nose or ear)
- Tests performed in the office that are not included in the Bright Futures plan

Our office does not want you to be surprised by a bill, but must always bill your health plan based on the actual services provided. Please feel free to ask questions about services that may not be paid in full by your health plan on the day of your visit. It is our pleasure to help.