

Dear Patients of North Coast Surgery Center

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for choosing North Coast Surgery Center for your surgical procedure. The facility is often chosen by your surgeon for its pleasant atmosphere, skilled staff, cost-efficiency, and superior outcomes. You will be attended to today by a number of surgical personnel and physicians. We would like to explain how the various professionals interrelate and how the billing process works.

Facility Fee. North Coast has a facility fee that covers the cost of personnel such as surgery and recovery room nurses. It also covers the cost of surgical supplies and anesthetic medications. As a courtesy to you, we will bill your insurance company for this fee. You may have some out-of-pocket expense for this if your insurance has a deductible that has not been met and/or a co-pay. We will try to let you know what this out-of-pocket amount is before surgery and collect it on your day of surgery. However, there are hundreds of different medical insurance policies and it is your responsibility to know the specifics of your individual policy. *The amount quoted to you is an estimate only.*

Surgeon and Anesthesiologist. During your surgery you will be attended to by a surgeon and anesthesiologist whom, while members of the North Coast Medical Staff, are independent contractors with differing contractual relationships with insurance companies. While you have probably already discussed insurance arrangements with your surgeon's office, we cannot know whether or not your particular health plan is contracted with the anesthesia providers at North Coast Surgery Center. Your anesthesia provider will be either Anesthesia Services Medical Group (ASMG), San Dieguito Anesthesia Group (SDMG), Edward Kane, MD, or Bruce Hochman, MD. If you wish, you may call ASMG, Genie Elkins @ 858-495-2056, SDMG @ 760-632-6662, or for Bruce Hochman, MD call Phyllis @ 760-724-3293 to determine whether they are contracted with your plan. **You will receive separate bills for the surgeon's and anesthesiologist's services. Contact their offices if you have questions about their bill.**

UNFORTUNATELY, YOUR ANESTHESIOLOGIST CANNOT BE ARRANGED AHEAD OF TIME DUE TO THE COMPLEXITY OF SURGERY SCHEDULING.

**ASMG (Genie Elkins) 858-495-2056
Drs. Hochman, Kane, and Raggio (Karrie) 800-213-2174 ext. 121**

Pathology and Laboratory Tests. Many patients will be able to have surgery with no lab test required except for the minor pre-surgery tests performed here at North Coast. However, depending on the medications you take or your health condition, you may require additional tests that need to be performed at an independent laboratory. You may also have a surgical procedure that requires the services of a pathologist. These pathology and laboratory costs are also generally covered by your insurance along with your co-pay.

X-ray services. If your procedure requires x-ray, such as epidural steroid injections, you will be billed for these services by an independent radiological contractor. Many insurance companies also cover these services.

We realize that navigating through the medical system can be a time-consuming and often confusing process. We know that your main concern is for your health and the health of your loved ones. We hope this information is helpful to you and can clarify how the surgical billing process works so you may concentrate your efforts on a speedy recovery.

Sincerely,

Joe Colbert, Administrator
Arlene Shatzer, Business Office Manager