

**DONALD R. COUNTS, MD, PA**  
CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF FAMILY MEDICINE  
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Dear Valued Patient:

I am writing to inform you of a major change in reimbursement policies in my medical practice. My intention is to structure an INSURANCE-FREE Primary Care and Preventive Medical Practice that will provide the highest level of Patient-Centered Care, with an emphasis on Wellness and Service.

On February 1, 2005 I shall begin a Fee-for-Service practice. All current contracts with third-party payers will be cancelled effective January 31, 2005. Payment will be expected at the time of service. At each visit we will provide a completed HCFA form (an insurance company standard) for your signature with an addressed, stamped envelope for submission to your insurance company. Your insurance company should reimburse you directly, as I shall be considered OUT OF NETWORK. Please check with your insurance company for rates of reimbursement. Medicare patients will continue to be served by private contracting. If you currently have insurance that requires a referral from me for specialty care (e.g., Aetna or Health Select) you will need to select a different insurance product, or a new primary care doctor, as my office will not be able to provide the referrals required by insurance companies after January 31<sup>st</sup>. A fee schedule will be posted on my website and available at my office.

My practice will continue to be oriented toward Primary and Preventive Family Medicine, as well as several Complementary/Alternative (Integrative) Medical approaches to better serve you including Medical Acupuncture, Meditation and various Mind-Body-Spirit techniques. I shall continue to offer consultations regarding: Bio-Identical Hormones, Cholesterol (Lipid) management, Chronic Fatigue/Fibromyalgia, Depression/Anxiety, Hypothyroidism, Menopause/Peri-Menopause, Osteoporosis/Osteopenia, Panic Attacks, Dietary and Nutritional issues (including Gluten Sensitivity and Irritable Bowel Syndrome), emphasizing Integrative Medical approaches. Herbal and Dietary supplements will be incorporated when appropriate.

I shall also continue to serve as a Clinical Assistant Professor in Family Medicine to Medical Students and Residents in Austin for both UTMB Galveston and UTHSC Houston Medical Schools to foster interest regarding Integrative Medicine.

I realize this is a significant departure from current policies and will impact each patient differently. Please be assured that this decision was made only after months of considered deliberation. I sincerely hope you will continue to allow me to serve as your primary resource for reliable, informative medical care and timely attention to your concerns in my integrative approach to Health and Wellness. I encourage you to call me with any questions or for clarification.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Counts, MD, PA

*Fellow American Academy of Family Practice*  
*Diplomate of the American Board of Medical Acupuncture*  
*Fellow of the American Board of Medical Acupuncture*  
*Founding Diplomate of the American Board of Holistic Medicine*  
*Menopause Practitioner-Certified from the North American Menopause Society*