

Stone Creek Family Medicine 2010 Annual Fee

The following are frequently asked questions regarding our annual fee. Please read below and sign the bottom acknowledging your understanding of this document. Please let us know if you have additional questions, we would be happy to answer them. **We value your opinion and appreciate any comments or suggestions on how we can provide you and your family the best possible care.**

How much is the annual fee?

\$45 per patient, or \$90 per immediate family including spouse and dependent children under 23 years of age.

Why are you charging this fee?

The Annual Fee is for services we provide in addition to your office visit that are not covered by insurance such as:

- Faxing, changing and refilling prescriptions
- Obtaining insurance authorizations and following up on denied claims
- Postage fees for billing statements, filling out forms and signing requested documents
- Technology services such as the patient portal, e-prescribing and electronic medical records

The annual fee helps with the rising cost of running a medical practice. Insurance companies tell us what they will pay for a given service. If we do not accept that rate, we are unable to be on their plan, or "in-network." Unfortunately, most insurance plans have decreased reimbursements rates over the past several years while the cost of running a practice continues to rise. For the cash-pay patient, or those without insurance, your annual fee allows us to keep the office visit and lab draw rates affordable.

When is it collected or billed?

It is collected at your first visit for the calendar year. For instance, if you see us in February, it is collected with your co-pay or office visit charge. If you have financial difficulties, our office will work with you.

Will the fee rise each year?

As the cost of running a practice increases and reimbursement rates drop, we will be forced to raise the annual fee in order to continue our enhanced services. We will only raise rates as needed. Other practices simply see more patients to make up the difference. We refuse to compromise the quality of our care.

Are other doctors doing this?

Yes, this is a growing trend all across the U.S. to provide better care in face of rising costs and decreased reimbursements. Our annual fee is much lower than other practices that don't offer our level of service.

I, the undersigned, understand this document and agree to pay Stone Creek Family Medicine the annual fee checked below. This payment is for services not covered by traditional "office visit" costs. I understand that this does not apply to my insurance deductibles or co-pays, and I will be responsible for any additional amount not covered by my insurance plan. Stone Creek Family Medicine will submit claims for office visits and "covered care" on my behalf to my insurance company if applicable.

Total: (Check One) \$45 for individual \$90 for family List Family Members: _____

Signature

Date

Payment Type (Check One Box) Credit Card Check Cash _____