

Understanding your Insurance

What is a Deductible and How Does It Affect Me?

An annual deductible is the dollar amount you must pay out of pocket during the year for medical expenses before your insurance coverage begins to pay.

For example, if the policy has a \$500 deductible, you must pay the first \$500 of medical expenses before the insurance company begins to pay for any services.

When does a deductible begin?

Most plan years begin January 1st, check with your insurance plan.

When do I have to pay for services?

Any time you receive medical care, you are expected to pay in full for the services until your deductible is met.

How will I know when my deductible has been met?

Call your insurance company at any time to check on how much of your deductible has been met; some insurance companies have this information available online. Every time you receive medical services, you will receive notification from your insurance company with how much they paid or did not pay.

What is Coinsurance and How Does It Work?

Coinsurance is your share of the costs of a health care service.

It is the percentage of the bill your health insurance requires you to pay first and then they will pay the remainder of the bill. You start paying coinsurance after you've paid your plan's deductible amount.

For example: You have a \$1000 deductible. You have already met that deductible and need to have a skin cancer removed. The cost of removing the cancer is \$500. If your coinsurance is 20 percent, you will pay \$100 and your insurance will pay \$400.

What is a Dermatopathologist and What do I need to know?

A Dermatopathologist is a medical doctor who specializes in looking at skin samples under a microscope.

When a biopsy is taken, it is sent to a Dermatopathology Lab and the biopsy is interpreted by a Dermatopathologist. You will get a **separate** bill directly from them. The bill you receive is **not** from our office, and you are responsible for all charges owed to them.

Special Information for High Deductible Plans

- You or your employer have chosen a high deductible type of health care insurance plan.
- High deductible plans can save you money in the long run, but you are responsible for paying all your medical bills until that deductible amount is reached.
- We have or will contact your insurance company and be advised as to whether or not you have met your deductible.
- If not you will have to pay us directly for a portion of your medical treatment today.
- We will contact your insurance company and advise them to apply this amount towards your deductible.
- The insurance company will then advise you and our office of the additional amount that is due to us.
- Your “patient” health care insurance contract and our “participating provider” contract means that we must abide by the insurance company’s determination of final dollar amount.
- Our billing department is always available to help you by calling 716-675-7000, ext. 214.