

WELL WOMAN EXAMINATIONS

"You can not be 'well' and 'sick' on the same day"

Some insurance carriers cover well woman (**also known as "yearly" or "annual" exams**) as a preventative service performed once a year. This exam consists of a pelvic and breast examination, along with a PAP smear. In contrast, many insurance carriers **do not** provide benefits for well woman appointments and you, as the member, will be responsible for payment at the time of service.

Please check with your insurance carrier or employer prior to your visit to inquire as to your well woman benefits. Women's Health Care Center of Houston tries to verify coverage and benefits on all patients when we have received the needed information in a timely manner; however, this courtesy is not always possible due to the volume of our patients, and staff time constraints.

If one of our provider performs the well woman visit, and upon examination determines that further treatment or follow-up is necessary, you will need to be seen at another time for additional care or lab tests. If your insurance is through an HMO and upon examination at your well woman exam your provider detects a problem, you may need to be directed back through your PCP prior to a visit with us again for follow-up.

THE ONLY LAB WORK THAT IS COVERED AT THE TIME OF YOUR WELL WOMAN VISIT (IF YOU HAVE WELL WOMAN BENEFITS) IS A CBC, URINALYSIS, AND OF COURSE YOUR PAP SMEAR.

Please do not ask our providers or staff, either at the time of your visit, or afterward, to change the diagnosis on your well woman exam to another condition; even if the proposed change is a condition that was discovered at the time of your visit. Misrepresenting the diagnosis for the patient to justify the services or equipment furnished is FRAUD.

If your main objective for your visit is NOT your yearly PAP smear and exam, notify the nurse and provider at once so it may be documented. It is important to note that even with this information, some insurance companies automatically count a PAP smear and pelvic exam as a well woman visit, if one has not been performed in the last 12 months.

Our financial department will be happy to answer any questions you may have after you speak to your insurance. Thank you for your understanding and compliance.

Name

Date