

Self Pay Pricing

At Saugatuck Pediatrics we are committed to practicing evidence based medicine. We do not believe in allowing insurance companies to determine the care we deliver. We strive to keep your children healthy through many screening methods, including developmental screening, hearing and vision monitoring, hemoglobin and lipid panel checks, and vaccinations. Our practices are based on the American Academy of Pediatrics Bright Futures Guidelines, which sets industry standards on what we do at each age physical. The same metrics apply to our out of network cash visits.

Well Visits:

Traditional medical pricing is not “all in one” but piecemeal, somewhat like ordering a meal ala carte. The basic service (i.e. a well visit) incurs one fee. Then there are various diagnostic tests such as hearing, vision, developmental screens, and blood tests that are indicated based on age. These are each added on separately. There are also vaccines at many visits, which in the State of Connecticut are **mostly** provided for free by the government through age 18.. However, there are vaccine administration fees that covers the cost of storing and managing vaccines, along with their administration.

Then, not uncommonly, a child comes in for a check-up, and has another presenting problem that is dealt with on the same day. In this case, the doctor may code for an additional charge. **One charge is considered the preventative medicine service (the well check), and the other is a problem-oriented service (problem visit).** For example, you present for your baby’s 12 month check-up, but he also has an earache and is diagnosed with an ear infection. The doctor will perform all necessary well child exam protocols, including growth, development, and administering vaccines, as well as a problem-oriented exam of the ear infection, including any necessary prescriptions. Another less clear-cut example would be that you present to the office with your five-year old for his well child exam. As well as performing all necessary preventive evaluation and management services for the well check, the doctor also discusses his medical history of chronic, recurrent asthma with the parent, asks any problem-oriented questions regarding his asthma, as well as any necessary physical exams, and makes recommendations for/prescribes asthma medications. The same guidelines would apply for any other abnormality or preexisting problem encountered at the well child exam. This

includes **extended discussions** that move a visit beyond the timing of a typical well visit (behavioral problems, chronic constipation, chronic headaches and chronic abdominal pain are examples.). **These extra discussions can be moved to a separate visit, but will then still incur a fee to address. Typically, short discussions about a well managed condition (such as well controlled seasonal allergies) that involve a simple refill, would not be subject to such additional charges.**

Hearing and vision tests. If your child sees an eye doctor or ENT who already does vision or hearing screening these do not need to be done in the office. Otherwise, they are required as part of a full physical exam.

Sick Visits

There is no way of us knowing when your child comes in for a sick visit exactly what it will cost as their cough could be a simple cold, or pneumonia. In one case we recommend some symptomatic treatment and charge a basic sick fee. But we also might end up needing to give a nebulizer treatment, prescribe antibiotics or inhalers, and consider tests like xrays or bloodwork. These types of visits are charged based on the complexity of the visit, and are not easy to predict.

Other visits are time based- for example, discussions about chronic constipation or mental health concerns.

While we can provide a list of basic sick codes, we cannot tell you in advance what the exact charge will be. As mentioned earlier, we will always practice medicine with an eye on what is medically indicated as opposed to what the cost of an intervention might be (and the cost of pediatric interventions are FAR less than those with internists and specialists.) There are also many codes for various interventions might be necessary- and it is not practical to list the cash pricing for all of these.

In certain cases, you might chose to go to an in-network specialist such as a dermatologist or orthopedist instead of using our services, but if you choose to use us you will need to trust that we will do what is medically indicated, and in the most cost effective fashion possible, but without sacrificing appropriate medical care.

For a list of our pricing, including our prompt pay discount, please email our office manager at: officemanager@saugpeds.com