

Health Insurance Deductible/Credit Card on File with VMA Effective 1/1/2015

For those of you who have signed up for a high deductible health insurance plan, now comes the hard part: making smart decisions about your health care spending since you are now responsible for more upfront out-of-pocket expenses. High deductible plans typically have lower premiums, but much higher deductibles. Most plans will have a minimum deductible of \$1,200 dollars for an individual and \$2,400 dollars for a family.

What is a deductible?

This is the amount you must pay each calendar year before your medical insurance plan begins paying benefits. For example, if your insurance plan has a \$500.00 dollar deductible, this means that you are responsible for the first \$500.00 dollars-worth of medical care before your insurance plan will begin paying.

Credit Card on File

Valley Medical Associates has chosen to ask all patients for a credit card or HAS card to keep on file as a payment option. Valley Medical Associates will bill your insurance company regardless of your deductible as this information is needed by your insurance company in order to track the amount toward your deductible. Since we don't know how much of the bill the insurance will cover, and how much will be your responsibility, we can store your card on file securely to cover any additional charges that are not covered by your insurance company. We have set a maximum that can be charged to your card (200.00), and notify you via email 5 days before the charge occurs, so you do not have any surprises. If you feel the charge is incorrect, we can hold the payment while you address your concerns with your insurance company.

If we have your card on file, you can also use it to pay for co-pays at future visits without having to bring your card. You also don't have to worry about a statement or sending a check. After your card is swiped we will print out your card on file agreement. By signing this, you are protecting yourself from being overcharged. It also explains more about card on file.

The office does not store the credit card information. It is stored by Evalon, a secure credit card processor. Also because we are a doctor's office, we have stricter computer security than most retail environments. Under the new health care laws, many high deductible plans now cover preventive care, such as annual check-ups, immunizations, mammograms and colon cancer screenings.

Our office does not have the specific details of each insurance plan. It is your responsibility to be aware of the amount of your health insurance deductible and what is covered by the plan and what is applied to your deductible.

Thank you for choosing **Valley Medical Associates** for your health care needs!