

## **Price Increase Notification**

Dear Patients,

Due to the rise in costs from our suppliers and fluctuations in the economy over the years, Lang Family Medicine must increase our prices on many of our products or services. This will include, but is not limited to: Supplements, lab charges, injections, IV pushes, IV's, office visits, certain procedures, virtual visits, off-hours services, and email correspondence.

The increase amounts in the aforementioned will vary widely. For those patients who come in weekly for injections, IV pushes and IV's, you may notice a slight increase. Usually with injectable supplements and drugs, the increase is on the minimal side. For office visits and doctor services, the increase is larger.

Lang Family Medicine tries to keep prices down as long as we can. We often do not increase prices when our overhead goes up. We try to keep our services affordable for our clients. But in the recent months and years, our cost on many items has continued to increase, making it necessary to increase our prices as well.

The last time we increased the office visit charges was 12 years ago, in 2010. We have always been reluctant to increase charges in an effort to continue serving as many patients as possible without unnecessary financial obstacles. An increase of 3% cost of living per year would culminate in an increase of 36% after 12 years. However, for so many reasons, we do not want to increase this much, regardless of the circumstance. After great deliberation, management has settled on a max increase of 28% for the vast majority of charges. Most increases will be less than this.

If you or your family have been patients with us for any length of time, you know that we care greatly about every aspect of your health... physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and also financial. This is why we change our prices so rarely. It is important to us that our clients understand that when we increase prices, it has much more to do with covering costs and maintaining business practices.

We take a small amount of pride in the fact that we do not have a business structure that charges extra nickels and dimes to feed the greedy appetite of a top-heavy, administration-saturated, corporate entity. Everyone at Lang Family Medicine works with their boots on the ground every business day to meet you at your point of need.

It is a complex task to make all of the changes in our system, which means that not everything will be increased all at once. This process may take a few days or a couple of weeks to complete. This means that some of the increases will be rolled out beginning in October. Office visits will be the last items to increase and will be effective November 14, 2022.

Some specific mention needs to be made of email correspondence about medical problems and questions. For a long time, but especially over the past 3 years, digital communication has become valuable for many reasons. If you have utilized email communication with our office, you know that our staff and Dr. Lang go to great efforts to keep up with this and provide you with answers and/or help that you need. Over time, the ability to do this has become both a blessing and a burden. The circumstances surrounding this necessitate that we begin charging for email inquiries beginning November 14, 2022.

For those of you who have received answers to your questions in Dr. Derek Lang's style with a detailed, outlined narrative, you understand that processing email questions can amount to a considerable amount of professional time and complexity. However, different types of questions require more or less time and complexity. We are working to create a template which will be a fee schedule for different email inquiries... sub-compartmentalized into levels that will be charged according to the complexity and time required to address them. In many ways, this is not unlike the time and complexity spent in our office visits.

We appreciate your loyalty to Lang Family Medicine. Allowing us to take care of your medical needs is among the greatest honors we can receive. The staff will not have a full knowledge of the new prices until after they are implemented. But if you need specific answers sooner you may ask to speak with Cindy, our clinic manager.

Respectfully, Howard J. Lang, D.O., F.A.A.E.M. Derek H. Lang, D.O.