

Thank you for choosing Shah Dermatology, LLC for your healthcare needs. To help us fulfill our mission to provide personalized and exceptional care to each of our patients, we have developed office policies to create a productive relationship between you and our team of healthcare providers. Our team cares greatly about your health and wellness and will provide recommendations and treatment options to help. We expect that you will abide by those recommendations and follow instructions regarding medications, testing, follow-up visits, etc. In addition to the medical care provided, understanding your patient obligations and financial responsibilities are essential components in establishing and maintaining a strong patient/practice relationship. In order to achieve this, we have provided the following information regarding our office policies, which may be amended from time to time without prior notice.

Required Documentation

Photo Identification. To protect you against identity theft for services, we request and keep on file a copy of your photo identification issued by a local, state, or federal government agency (e.g., Driver's License, Passport, Military Identification, etc.). We also capture photograph(s) for record-keeping, treatment, health care operations, and other permitted uses in accordance with our Privacy Policies.

Insurance Card. We ask all patients to provide their insurance card (if applicable) at every visit. We keep on file a copy of your current insurance card to facilitate the submission and processing of your claim. **If you do not provide current proof of insurance, you may be billed as an uninsured/self-pay patient whose payment in full is required at time of service.** If you provide your insurance card(s) at a later time, we may be able to retroactively bill the services to your insurer depending on the insurance plan's requirements.

Annual Updates. At your first visit of the calendar year, our office will request that you review and update all required registration materials, including office, financial, privacy, and other applicable policies. Please also be prepared to provide your current photo identification, insurance card, and demographic information. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Patient Responsibility

Patients or their legal representatives are ultimately responsible for all charges for services provided. We have a right to collect payment at the time of your visit for billable services rendered and any prior balances.

If you have a routine skin exam but need additional services, you will be billed accordingly for those additional services.

Types of Payments

Co-Payments. Insurance carriers require that we collect your co-payment at the time of your visit. If you are not prepared to pay such amount, please reschedule (subject to our cancellation policy).

Deductibles. Most insurance plans require you to pay a predetermined amount (the "deductible") before insurance will cover certain charges. We encourage you to research your deductible and where you stand with your insurance company. If it is deemed that you have a deductible then you will be responsible to pay that.

Co-Insurance. Some insurance plans require that you pay a certain percentage (for example, 20%) of the allowable charge amount.

Uninsured Patients/Self-Pay. If you do not have insurance or if the services provided are not covered by your insurance, payment for all services is due at the time of your visit.

Out-of-Network/Non-Contracted. We participate with most major insurance plans. You should contact your insurance company to confirm if your provider is in network prior to making your appointment. If we do not participate with your insurance plan, you will be required to pay for your visit at the time of service. We are happy to provide you with a copy of your bill and appropriate information regarding your visit for you to submit to your insurance company.

Non-Covered Services. It is your responsibility to contact your insurance plan to determine whether a particular service is covered. If we provide you non-covered services, you are expected to pay for the services at the time of your visit. If the total charge amount is not available at the time of check-out, you may be required to pay an estimated amount that will be applied to your charges.

If you are a Medicare patient, we will inform you of any non-covered services prior to your treatment. Your provider will review options with you and document your decision and acceptance of financial responsibility using the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Advance Beneficiary Notice (ABN) form.

Cosmetic Services. Patients are financially responsible for all cosmetic consults and treatments at the time of service. We do not bill insurance companies for cosmetic services.

Appointment Deposits. Upon scheduling certain appointment types, such as cosmetic and various medical services, we reserve the right to require an appointment deposit calculated based on the appointment type (subject to change at any time). At your visit, any deposits will be applied to your total balance and any outstanding balance will be due in full. Please review our "Late Arrivals, Cancellations, and No-Shows" sections regarding rescheduling/cancellation and potential fees associated.

Insurance

Your insurance is a contract between your insurer and you. It is your responsibility to know and understand the terms, guidelines, and limitations of your plan, including your co-pay, deductible, and co-insurance obligations as well as any network or coverage limitations. It is also your responsibility to advise us of any changes in your insurance, your address, or your employer.

Claim Submission. If you are on traditional Medicare or are a member of a health plan we participate with, we will submit your claim to your insurance company. We will also file your secondary/supplemental insurance claims as a courtesy.

You are responsible for:

- Ensuring that you have active and in-network insurance coverage for each date of service.
- Knowing if your insurance plan requires a referral. If so, please contact your primary doctor's office at least two (2) weeks prior to your appointment date. It takes most insurance companies at least one (1) week to receive the referral authorization. Please call our office at least three (3) business days prior to your appointment to confirm that your referral has been received. If a referral is required and you do not have the appropriate referral or authorization, you may be billed as an uninsured patient.
- Checking with your insurance plan to determine if prescribed testing (lab, pathology, etc.) is covered under your insurance policy. (If you choose to have non-covered testing, we will require full payment at the time of your visit.)
- Checking with your insurance plan to review the schedule of benefits and whether a co-payment, deductible coinsurance, or other out-of-pocket responsibility applies.
- Filing and appeals with your insurance plan, if needed.
- Coordinating benefits if you have more than one insurance plan. You may be required to contact your insurance company to clarify which plan is primary or to correct any demographic or other issues. If your secondary insurance has not paid us within 30 days, the balance will become your responsibility.
- Arriving for appointments early/on-time with all required documentation.
- Paying the entire amount determined by your insurance to be the patient responsibility.

Insurance Verification. It is your responsibility to provide us with accurate and current insurance information, and it is also your responsibility to ensure you have active coverage. As a courtesy, we will attempt to verify your insurance eligibility prior to your visit. If we are unable to confirm active, in-network insurance coverage, we will attempt to notify you. If you are unable to present active insurance coverage prior to the visit, you will be required to either pay at the time of your visit or reschedule your appointment. For same day appointments, we will attempt to check eligibility when the appointment is made.

Outstanding Balances. After your visit and insurance adjudication, we will send you a statement for any outstanding balances. All outstanding balances are due upon receipt of the statement. If you come for another visit and have an outstanding balance, we will require payment for both the new visit and your outstanding balance. Your outstanding balances also can be viewed in your payment portal and paid conveniently online at www.shahdermatologyllc.com/pay.

We accept cash, check, and most major credit cards.

Delinquent Balances. Our office generally sends **three (3) paper statements**. You may make a payment online via our website once you receive your statement. If you have an outstanding balance for more than ninety (90) days, you may be referred to an outside collection agency. If your account is assigned to a collection agency, you will be responsible for any fees charged by the collection agency along with any other collection costs, reasonable attorney's fees, and court costs. In addition, if you have unpaid delinquent accounts, we may discharge you as a patient and you may not be allowed to schedule any additional services unless special arrangements have been made.

Returned Check Fee. A \$40 fee will be added to your account balance in addition to the amount of the check returned for insufficient funds. This total (including original amount and fee) must be paid by cash or credit card within 7 days.

Outside Lab/Pathology Fees. Our fees are for physician services only. When you have a biopsy, excision, or other necessitating factors, your provider may send the specimen to an outside lab for processing and interpretation or to another designated outside vendor. In those instances, you or your insurance company may receive a **separate bill** from the outside lab, pathology, or other diagnostic-related provider. It is your responsibility to notify your provider team, AT YOUR VISIT, if your insurance requires you to use a specific lab or vendor.

Benign Lesions. Patients are financially responsible for the removal or treatment of all benign skin lesions unless they have met certain clinical criteria, including, but not limited to change in quality or character, increase in size, pain, or bleeding. Billing insurance for a benign removal/treatment may constitute fraud.

Late Arrivals, Cancellations, and No-Shows

Late Arrivals. If you arrive late or have not fully completed required registration materials by your scheduled appointment time, you may be asked to reschedule your appointment or wait for an open appointment time on that day's schedule.

Rescheduling/Cancellations. If you are unable to keep a scheduled appointment, you must provide Advanced Notice to our office: two (2) business days in advance for surgical/procedural/cosmetic appointments, and one (1) business day in advance for other appointments. Such Advanced Notice must be communicated via telephone or in person during our regular business hours, and is your responsibility to ensure that our office has actually received your notice. Please note that any notices submitted less than one (1) business day in advance through our...

voicemail, email, electronic reminder system, or other recorded channels may not be received or reviewed in a timely manner. If you do not provide the required Advanced Notice, we may consider you a “no show.” Any fees associated with a failure to provide sufficient Advanced Notice will not be applied towards your service or waived without management approval. We understand that special unavoidable circumstances may cause you to reschedule or cancel with less than our required Advanced Notice period, and you may request management review of your circumstances on a case-by-case basis. If you are on a medication that requires following-up during a specific window, please plan accordingly as rescheduling is subject to availability.

No-Shows. If you do not show up for your appointment or did not provide sufficient Advanced Notice, you will be considered a no-show and fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. Any applicable fees will need to be paid prior to rescheduling. This fee cannot be billed to insurance. As permitted by state law, you may be discharged as a patient following two (2) or more no-shows in a 6-month period.

Our practice firmly believes that good physician/patient relationship is based upon understanding and good communication. Questions about cancellation and no-show fees should be directed to our office at 301.884.0278.

Other Policies

Prescription Refills. Please plan ahead for prescription refills. We ask that you contact us for any refills so that we may contact the pharmacy. Please note, we will only refill prescriptions during our normal business hours. We will not refill prescriptions if you are outside the recommended follow-up window. As a general rule, no refills will be given for patients who have not been seen in the practice during the past twelve months for that specific prescription.

Medical Records. Medical records requests and/or completion of forms (e.g. disability, life insurance, cancer policies, etc.) may be subject to fees determined by state law, contractual agreements, and/or office policies. Medical records requests cannot be provided the same day requested and may take up to 30 days to be processed.

Minor Patients. All minors are required to have a parent/legal guardian present with them for each appointment. By law, we are required to have a parent/legal guardian consent to provide treatment to a minor. If a parent or guardian is unable to attend an appointment with the minor, then a signed and dated authorization to treat a minor is required prior to the appointment. If a minor comes to the office unattended and we do not have a signed and dated authorization from the parent/legal guardian for specific day(s) of treatment, we will be unable to see the patient at the time, and the appointment will have to be rescheduled (subject to our cancellation policy). The parent/legal guardian presenting the child for care is responsible for payment at the time of service. We can submit charges to an absent parent's insurance only with signed permission from the policyholder. Any patient over the age of 18 will be held financially responsible for all charges incurred.

Lab Results. After your provider reviews test results and recommends action, our office will then contact you to discuss. Please make sure to call if you have not heard from us within 2 weeks of your test. Please do not assume that your results are negative if you have not heard from us; it is possible that we have not received your results, or that we were unable to get into contact with you.

Exposures. If any exposure of blood or tissue occurs between patient and office personnel during the visit/treatment, a sample of patient's blood will be screened for infectious disease such as hepatitis and HIV. Under certain circumstances, associated screening costs may be billed to patient's insurance.

Routine Skin Cancer Screening Exams. To ensure the best dermatological care, we strongly encourage our patients to have a full-body screening exam at least annually (more frequently for patients with higher risk factors). If such exam cannot be performed at your initial visit due to the time needed to address your primary concerns, please make sure that you schedule an appointment as soon as possible. All screenings and follow-ups are subject to your insurance plans copay, deductible, and coinsurance requirements.

Electronic Communications. Our practice may communicate electronically with patients through our patient portal, payment portal, website, practice email, individual team member or provider emails and or text messages. Take care when sending or reading messages that your device is secure and private. If you ask us to communicate electronically with you, we will assume that you check messages at reasonable intervals. We cannot guarantee that we will respond to your messages, and we understand that you cannot guarantee you will respond to ours. For important issues, telephone is best. Because electronic messages cannot be guaranteed 100% secure, please do not put sensitive matters in messages without considering this. You have the right to ask us to use either encrypted (secure) or unencrypted email (not secure) for your correspondence with us. Please be advised that unencrypted email has a higher risk of being intercepted and your private information obtained by an unauthorized party. We may use electronic messaging to inform you about things related to our practice that we believe would interest you. If you do not want to receive electronic messages from us, let us know. Please notify us as soon as possible if your email address or phone number changes. We will not give your email address or phone number to anyone who is not authorized. If you believe you have received or sent a message by mistake, or one that contains errors, please let us know. Delete any messages that are not intended for you. In addition to those above, electronic communications can have other risks and disadvantages that might cause inconvenience or harm. Everyone using electronic communications needs to use good judgement about these valuable technologies, and must remember that there are alternatives that would be better for some situations. PLEASE DO NOT USE ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS FOR EMERGENCIES; CALL 911.

Thank you for helping us better serve our patients.



My signature below indicates that I have read, understand, and will comply with the information contained within the practice's Office Policies (last revised January 2, 2024). I understand that these policies are subject to change without prior notice and that I may request a copy of the current policies at any time. For your convenience, a copy of these policies are available on our website.

Signature of Patient (or Legal Representative)

Date

Print Name of Patient

Print Name of Legal Representative (if applicable)