

MATERNAL-FETAL MEDICINE

Information for patients regarding billing:

Patients who are referred to Maternal-Fetal Medicine at St. Vincent's Medical Center for ultrasound, consultation, amniocentesis, first trimester screening, genetic counseling etc. should be aware that they may receive multiple bills related to the services provided.

The hospital charges a facility/technical fee for the ultrasound. This covers the cost of the equipment, facility and personnel involved in providing the ultrasound. The hospital will bill your insurance carrier directly for this. Most insurance companies cover this fee and the patient usually does not get a bill; a co-pay is generally not required from the patient. If your insurance does not cover this charge you will receive a bill from St. Vincent's Medical Center.

The interpretation of the ultrasound is performed by Dr. Cusick, the perinatologist. Typically, this fee is covered by most insurance; a patient co-pay is often not required. However, if you have a consultation with Dr. Cusick (or the genetic counselor), with or without ultrasound, there is a separate physician's fee for that service. This charge may occur when you meet with Dr. Cusick and/or the genetic counselor for a consultation, or when Dr. Cusick reviews ultrasound findings at the time of your ultrasound appointment. The physician's fee is submitted by Physician's for Women's Health (PWH) to your insurance company. This consultation, although often covered by insurance, is considered an office visit and accordingly, a patient co-pay is required. Any uncovered physician fee for ultrasound interpretation or consultation, or required patient co-payment, will be billed to the patient by PWH on behalf of Dr. Cusick.

If you have additional testing (blood draw, amniocentesis, etc.) in Maternal-Fetal Medicine that is sent to an outside laboratory (e.g. GeneCare, Genzyme), the laboratory will bill your insurance company directly. If your insurance company does not reimburse the laboratory for the cost of testing, you will be billed by the outside laboratory.

Thank you for your consideration.

If you have any questions, please call 203-576-6201.