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GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY

Dear Patient,

As I'm sure you are aware, the advent of managed care has significantly changed the practice of medicine over the last several years. Insurers have assumed control of the doctor-patient relationship, too often dictating the level of care. Many physicians have opted out of "in-network" contractual arrangements with insurers in order to preserve the level of care they were trained to give their patients.

Recently insurers are making more and more demands of physicians and their staff to "increase the efficiency" of the delivery of health care, in their words adding "significant value" to patients and physicians. The most recent demand is to obtain authorization for all CT scans and MRI scans, by speaking with a nurse and sometimes a physician of a contracted Imaging Review company. This may take 20-30 minutes of our time, mostly on telephone hold. The process of authorization cannot be delegated to the Imaging Center that will perform the test, nor can our dictated reports be faxed for authorization. We must call. The Imaging Centers that will perform these tests will not even schedule without an authorization number, so we cannot bundle calls to obtain authorizations for more than one patient at a time.

We remain committed to provide the highest level of care for our patients, so we will make these calls. However, we must charge for the time required, as it is a significant burden for our staff to complete these tasks during regular office hours. The charge is \$35 and is not covered by your insurance.

Please sign below to indicate you have read and understand and agree to the above.

Please Print Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____