

LEO TREYZON, M.D., INC.

CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL OFFICE TOWERS
8631 W. THIRD ST., SUITE 1015-East
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90048
PHONE 310-652-4472
FAX 310-358-2266

GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY

Dear Blue Cross, SAG, & MPI Health Plan patients:

As you may be aware, there are two sedation options that are used for colonoscopy and upper gastrointestinal endoscopy. One form of sedation consists of a Valium-type medication called Versed, and a narcotic called Fentanyl, referred to as Moderate or Conscious sedation, administered by a registered nurse (RN) under the supervision of your gastroenterologist. This form of sedation is included in your gastroenterologist's fee.

The more commonly used form of sedation in our community, and at Specialty Surgical Center (SSC), is "intravenous sedation" typically with a drug called Propofol, administered by a specially trained physician called an anesthesiologist. Propofol has a rapid onset and short duration, compared to Versed and Fentanyl, and provides complete sedation, whereas with conscious sedation this is not guaranteed. Propofol also has potent anti-nausea properties, so one tends to awake quickly and without any ill effects.

This physician feels that intravenous sedation by an anesthesiologist may be more effective, and perhaps safer, than conscious sedation administered by a registered nurse and supervised by your gastroenterologist.

Up until November, 2005 Blue Cross covered the services of an anesthesiologist. However, in a letter dated November, 2005, Blue Cross informed us that they would deny coverage for an anesthesiologist for GI endoscopic procedures including colonoscopy and upper gastrointestinal endoscopy, unless the patient meets certain medical conditions. Medical conditions that would be considered appropriate for Blue Cross to cover an anesthesiologist include "severe systemic diseases" such as significant heart and/or lung diseases, severe insulin dependant diabetes, sleep apnea, and morbid obesity. Other conditions that would require an anesthesiologist include a history of drug or alcohol abuse, chronic use of Valium-type medications such as Ativan, Xanax or Clonopin, or a history of previous problems with sedation or anesthesia. As of 2007, SAG and MPI health plans are following the same protocol.

If you wish to utilize the services of an anesthesiologist, which this physician recommends, you will be asked to pay a reduced "cash price" of \$250 for colonoscopy or upper GI endoscopy, or \$300 for both procedures, when you arrive at the surgery center. If you believe you may qualify medically for Blue Cross, SAG, or MPI coverage, the anesthesia group at SSC will give you the proper materials to bill the insurance company. If you wish our office to attempt to obtain prior authorization for your anesthesia services based on medical necessity, we will do this for a \$35 fee. Please note that occasionally these companies deny even appropriate charges, requiring appeals before they will pay for the services rendered.

If you wish to be sedated with Versed and a narcotic by our RN, and this physician, then you may do so. **Please indicate below which you prefer as this needs to be scheduled in advance.**

Please sign below to acknowledge that you have read and reviewed the above.

- Anesthesiologist Versed and Fentanyl
 No Anesthesiologist

Signature

Date