

# LEO TREYZON, M.D., INC.

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## GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY

Dear Medicare Patient:

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 safer than conscious sedation administered by a registered nurse and supervised by your gastroenterologist.

Up until September, 2008 Medicare covered the services of an anesthesiologist. However, without informing us, Medicare's new "fiscal intermediary" has denied coverage in some patients for an anesthesiologist for GI endoscopic procedures including colonoscopy and upper gastrointestinal endoscopy. We do not know if they require documentation that the patient meets certain medical conditions, nor would we know how or to whom to direct such documentation. Medical conditions that would be considered appropriate for insurance coverage for anesthesiologist include "severe systemic diseases" such as significant heart and/or lung diseases, severe insulin dependant diabetes, sleep apnea, and morbid obesity.

If you wish to utilize the services of an anesthesiologist, which this physician recommends, we will schedule you for an anesthesiologist, but if Medicare denies payment you will be asked to pay a reduced "cash price" of \$200 for colonoscopy or upper GI endoscopy. You would be billed for this service.

If you wish to be sedated with Versed and a narcotic by our RN, and this physician, then you may do so. If you wish this "Moderate Sedation", **please indicate below 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