

## **Warren Allergy & Asthma Care**

### **Insurance Coverage for Allergy Shots**

We have prepared this letter to assist you in determining your insurance coverage associated with allergy shots.

If you have decided to start allergy injections for you or your child we ask that you contact your insurance company directly to clarify your coverage. There is usually a phone number on the back of your insurance card.

There are two charges associated with allergy shots. There is a charge for the allergy serum (extract) and a charge for the nurse to administer the shot(s).

#### **SERUM ----Billing Code 95165**

First there is a charge for the serum that is injected. Each patient has their own serum (extract) specifically made for them and stored in the office with their name on it. The serum is formulated by the physicians and is based on what you are allergic to. Patients typically have 1, 2 or 3 different bottles of serum made depending on what allergens are being mixed together. Some allergens do not mix well so they have to be separated in to different bottles and injected separately.

When starting allergy shots, patients are billed 10, 20 or 30 units depending if 1, 2 or 3 bottles of serum are needed. Once you received 10 injection sessions you will be billed again 10, 20 or 30 units. This cycle continues to repeat as you receive your injections.

Injections are given initially on a weekly basis, with increasing amounts injected each time during the buildup phase. Once the patient reaches a top dose determined in part by the doctor and the patients response, then the patient enters the maintenance phase. Typically shots are then changed to every 2 weeks for a set of bottles, followed by every 3 weeks for a bottle series and eventually once per month.

#### **SERUM INJECTION-- Billing Code 95115/95117**

There is a charge for the nurse to administer the shot(s). This is charged each time you come in for your shots. If you are getting one injection the code is 95115 and if you are getting two or more injections each time it is 95117.

It is important that you ask specifically about coverage for the serum (95165) and for the administration of the allergy shot (95115 or 95117). You may also want to know if there are any restrictions on the number of injections you can get per year. You may also want to ask about your deductible which must be satisfied by you every year before your coverage starts.