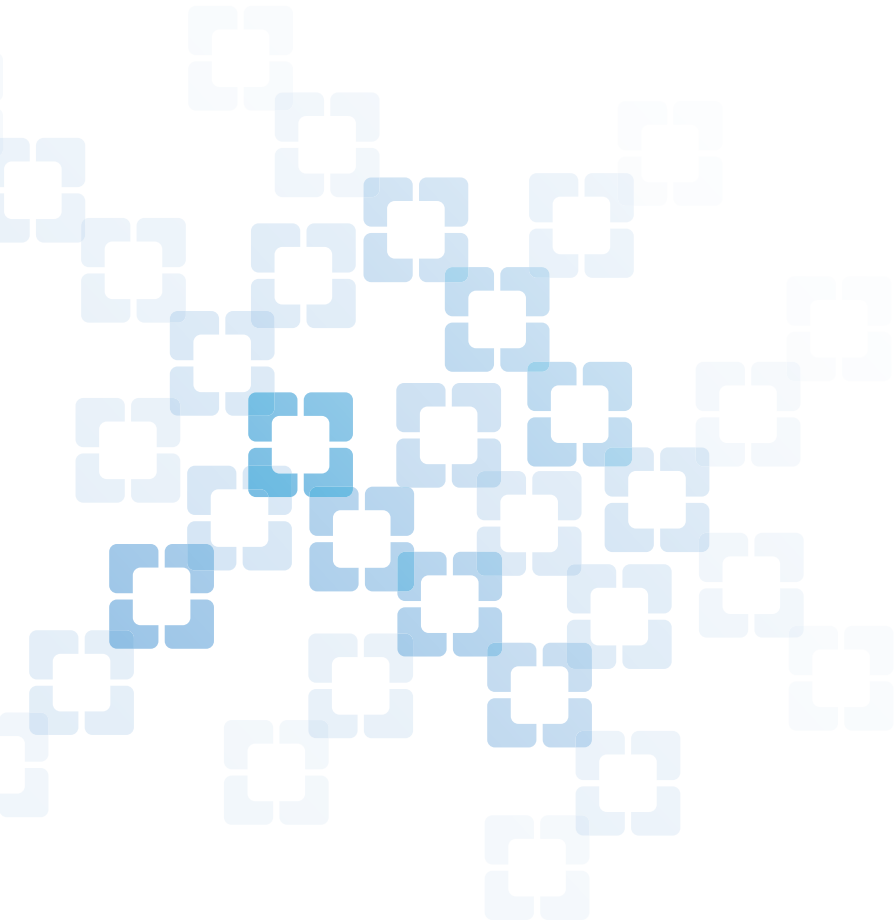




Cleveland Clinic
Akron General

Your Financial Journey with Cleveland Clinic Akron General



Thank you for choosing
Cleveland Clinic Akron
General for your healthcare
needs. We appreciate the
confidence you have placed
in us.

The purpose of this brochure is to address
common questions related to insurance, billing,
and financial assistance for our services.

Please let us know if we can answer additional
questions to help make the financial side of
your experience with us as easy as possible,
so you can focus on your health and wellness.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1** Preparing for your Visit
- 4** What to Expect During your Visit
- 6** After you Receive Care
- 8** Medicare Information

Preparing for your Visit

To help ensure a smooth billing process, we encourage you to take these steps **before** your visit at Cleveland Clinic Akron General:

- Confirm that your insurance is accepted at Cleveland Clinic Akron General.
- Check your insurance plan to find out what is and isn't covered.
- Confirm the copay amount for your visit, as well as your deductible, coinsurance and out-of-pocket maximum, if applicable.
- Update your coordination of benefits with your insurance plan.
- If you do not have insurance, review our Financial Assistance options at clevelandclinic.org/billing.

How can I find out if my insurance is accepted at Cleveland Clinic Akron General?

- Look for your insurance plan on our Accepted Insurance list at clevelandclinic.org/billing.
- Ask a scheduler if your insurance is accepted when you call to schedule your visit or procedure.
- Call your insurance company to find out if it has a contract with Cleveland Clinic Akron General.

How do I find out if services will be covered by my insurance?

- Call your insurance plan to find out what is and isn't covered.
- If your service requires prior authorization, Cleveland Clinic Akron General will work with your insurance company to initiate the authorization.
- If your insurance company does **not** approve the service, we will notify you. If you choose to proceed with the service, you will be required to make a deposit and payment arrangements for charges **not** paid by your insurance.

How do my deductible, coinsurance, copay, and out-of-pocket maximum work together?

- If your plan has a deductible, you are responsible for 100% of your medical costs until your deductible is met. Anything you pay out of pocket counts toward your deductible. **Note** that monthly premiums do **not** count toward your deductible.
- Once you have reached your deductible, your insurance plan begins to pay for some of the costs. The amount you pay is your coinsurance, if applicable.
- Once you have reached your out-of-pocket maximum, your insurance plan pays for 100% of your medical costs. You may still have to pay copays after reaching your out-of-pocket maximum.

Example: Cindy's plan has a \$1,200 deductible, 20% coinsurance and \$3,000 out-of-pocket maximum. Her insurance plan has some copays for certain services.

January

December



Cindy hasn't reached her \$1,200 deductible yet. Her plan doesn't pay any of the costs.

Office Visit: \$200
Cindy pays: \$200
Insurance pays: \$0

Cindy has reached her \$1,200 deductible and coinsurance begins. Her plan pays some of the costs.

Office Visit: \$200
Cindy pays: 20% of \$200 = \$40
Insurance pays: 80% of \$200 = \$160

Cindy has reached her \$3,000 out-of-pocket maximum. Her plan pays the full cost of her covered services for the rest of the year.

Office Visit: \$200
Cindy pays: \$0
Insurance pays: \$200

Should I expect to receive an estimate?

- If you have an accepted insurance plan, you will receive an estimate for surgeries and diagnostics, like CT scans and MRIs, at the time of scheduling.
- You can also request an estimate from a Patient Financial Advocate. Call 866.246.3472 or visit clevelandclinic.org/pfacallback.
- If you do **not** have coverage, or your coverage is **not** accepted at Cleveland Clinic Akron General, you will receive an estimate for all services.
- You can produce your own estimate for certain services through MyChart or through our self-service estimate tool at clevelandclinic.org/costestimate.

What are my options for Financial Assistance?

- If you do **not** have insurance, you may qualify for financial assistance. Even if you have insurance, financial assistance may be available under certain circumstances.
- If your employment status has changed, you may qualify for our COBRA assistance program.
- Our Patient Financial Advocates and Customer Service staff can tell you about our financial assistance programs and how to apply.
- A summary of the Cleveland Clinic Akron General financial assistance policy and application can be found at clevelandclinic.org/billing. These are only applicable to their intended location and do not apply to all Cleveland Clinic Akron General facilities.

What is Cleveland Clinic Akron General MyChart?

MyChart is our secure, online tool that connects you to your electronic medical record, allowing you to:

- Schedule, request, and cancel clinical and financial appointments
- Securely message your provider's office
- Keep track of your test results and medications
- Complete your registration prior to your appointment, including insurance updates and document signatures

- Pay your copay and bill
- New features added regularly

Visit clevelandclinic.org/mychart to learn more and to sign up.

Definitions

Coinsurance: The amount a patient must pay for covered healthcare services after they have satisfied the deductible required by their health insurance plan. Coinsurance is typically in the form of a percentage.

Coordination of Benefits: The process of determining which of two or more insurance policies will have the primary responsibility of paying a medical claim.

Copay: A fixed amount that the patient is expected to pay at the time of service for their care based on their benefit plan. The amount of the copayment may vary based on the visit type.

Deductible: The amount a patient owes for covered healthcare services before their insurance company begins to share the costs. Deductibles are different for individuals vs. families. Out-of-network deductibles are generally separate and higher than in-network deductibles.

In Network Insurance: Insurance coverage that is contracted with Cleveland Clinic Akron General. Also known as Accepted Insurance, Contracted Insurance.

Out-of-Network Insurance: Insurance coverage that is **not** contracted with Cleveland Clinic Akron General. Also known as non-Accepted Insurance, non-Contracted insurance.

Out-of-Pocket Maximum: The maximum a patient will have to pay for medical expenses in a plan year. Deductibles, copays, and coinsurance all contribute to the out-of-pocket maximum.

Premium: The amount a policy-holder or their employer pays for insurance coverage when he/she purchases health coverage. Monthly premium costs do **not** count toward deductibles.

What to Expect During your Visit

Please bring the following items with you when you arrive for every visit at Cleveland Clinic Akron General:

- Your most recent insurance card(s)
- Photo identification
- Payment for your copay, deductible, estimate or outstanding balance – if applicable

What will I owe at the time of my visit?

- Copays are due at time of service, per your insurance plan.
- If an estimate was provided to you prior to your visit, a portion of that amount may be requested at the time of service.
- If you have any outstanding balances, you may be asked to pay your balance or make payment arrangements.

My Primary Care Physician wants me to see a Specialist. How do I know if I'll be covered?

- Check with your insurance company. Many insurance plans require a referral from a Primary Care Physician before they will cover a visit to a Specialist.

What should I expect if I am placed in observation status?

- Insurance companies require that Cleveland Clinic Akron General bill all observation status care as outpatient services.
- This means that your outpatient benefits will apply and your copay, coinsurance, and/or deductible may apply to these services.
- You will be notified when you are placed in observation status.
- If you have questions about how your insurance plan treats observation services, please contact your insurance company.

Definitions

Observation Status: Based on clinical criteria, observation status is considered an outpatient service and falls under outpatient benefits. In observation, clinical staff will closely monitor a patient for several hours or days.

Primary Care Physician (PCP): A health care professional who is responsible for monitoring a patient's overall health care needs.

Specialist: A health care professional who is responsible for specific types of care (cardiologist, ophthalmologist, etc).

After you Receive Care

When will I receive a bill?

- If your insurance determines that you are financially responsible for a portion of services, based on your deductible and coinsurance, you will receive a Cleveland Clinic Akron General billing statement.
- You will receive a billing statement only after your services have been processed by your insurance company.

Will I receive one bill for all services provided at Cleveland Clinic Akron General?

- Nearly all of the Cleveland Clinic Akron General sites are on a single billing statement. However, there are services that continue to bill separately, for example some physicians who practice at our community hospitals, some radiology, anesthesiology, and certain laboratory services.
- If you were transported by ambulance or helicopter, you may receive a separate bill from the medical transport company.
- You may also receive an Explanation of Benefits (EOB) from your insurance company informing you of claims submitted, how much is being covered by the insurance company, and how much you will owe.

Why are there two charges for the same service listed on my bill?

- One charge is for the professional services provided by your physician. The other charge is the facility fee, which is for the use of the room, supplies and equipment.

How do I make a payment?

- You can pay your bill in person at any of our check-in desks, cashier offices or with our Patient Financial Advocates.
- Pay by phone at [216.445.6249](tel:216.445.6249) or toll free at [866.621.6385](tel:866.621.6385).
- Learn about electronic payment options at clevelandclinic.org/paymentoptions.
- Pay by mail using the detachable portion of your billing statement.

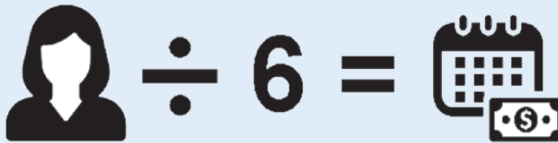
What forms of payment do you accept?

- Cash, check or money order
- All major credit cards
- Electronic checks
- Payroll deduction (Cleveland Clinic Akron General employees only)
- Health Savings Account (HSA)

If I am unable to make full payment immediately, can I set up a payment plan?

- Yes, please contact Customer Service at [216.445.6249](tel:216.445.6249) or toll free at [866.621.6385](tel:866.621.6385) to learn more about zero interest payment options.

Example: Cindy owes \$400 and calls Cleveland Clinic Akron General to set up a 6-month payment plan.



Cindy's balance of \$400

6 month payment plan

\$66.67 owed per month

What if I have questions about my bill?

- If you have a question about a charge on your billing statement, or would like an itemized statement, call **216.445.6249** or toll free at **866.621.6385**. You can also send written correspondence to:

Cleveland Clinic Akron General
Customer Service
9500 Euclid Avenue RK2-4
Cleveland, OH 44195

- Follow a visual guide to understanding your billing statement at clevelandclinic.org/billing.

Definitions

Explanation of Benefits (EOB): The insurance company's written explanation of a claim, showing what they paid and what the patient must pay.

Physician/Professional Charges: Charges for the healthcare professional who performed the services.

Technical/Hospital Charges: Charges for the actual procedure, room, supplies and equipment.

Medicare Information

Below are some common questions and answers about Medicare. For more detailed information, please visit the Medicare website at medicare.gov or call **1-800-Medicare**.

What is a Medicare Wellness Visit?

- If you've had Medicare Part B for longer than 12 months, you can have an Annual Wellness Visit once every 12 months.
- You and your provider will complete a Health Risk Assessment and develop a personalized prevention plan to help you stay healthy. You pay nothing for this visit.
- Your Part B deductible may apply if your doctor performs tests or

services during this visit.

- To understand the limitations of a free Medicare Wellness visit, please visit [medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov).

How will I be covered if I am placed under observation status as a Medicare patient?

- You will be provided a document summarizing your observation status. Observation status is **not** considered a hospitalization and does **not** affect your Medicare Part A benefits. No hospital days are used and the Part A deductible is **not** required.
- Observation status is covered by Part B, and the annual deductible and copay apply.
- Medicare does **not** pay for self-administered drugs while you are in observation status. These will be billed to you.

Why am I being asked to sign an Advance Beneficiary Notice (ABN)?

- Sometimes, Medicare will **not** pay for tests even if your doctor believes they are medically necessary. When that happens, Cleveland Clinic Akron General must ask the patient to pay for these services.
- Signing the ABN is an acknowledgment of Medicare's possible non-coverage and your financial responsibility.
- For more information, visit [medicare.gov/coverage](https://www.medicare.gov/coverage).

Definitions

Advance Beneficiary Notice (ABN): A notice a provider gives a patient before receiving a service if, based on Medicare coverage rules, the provider has reason to believe Medicare will not pay for the service. The notice includes the estimated cost to the patient.

Observation Status: Based on clinical criteria, observation status is considered an outpatient service and falls under outpatient benefits. In observation, clinical staff will closely monitor a patient for several hours or days.

Self-Administered Drugs: Medications that you would normally take on your own, like medications that you take every day to control blood pressure or diabetes.

Contact Information

Appointment Scheduling

330.344.5760

Patient Financial Advocate

330.344.6924 or toll free at **866.246.3472**

Customer Service

216.445.6249 or toll free at **866.621.6385**

Visit clevelandclinic.org/billing for more information on billing and financial assistance or to communicate with us via chat.



9500 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44195

Cleveland Clinic is a nonprofit, multispecialty academic medical center integrating outpatient and hospital care with research and education for better patient outcomes and experience. More than 4,500 staff physicians and researchers provide services through 20 patient-centered institutes. It is part of Cleveland Clinic, a 6,026-bed healthcare system with a main campus in Cleveland, 18 hospitals and over 220 outpatient locations. The health system includes five hospitals in Southeast Florida with more than 1,000 beds, a medical center for brain health in Las Vegas, a sports and executive health center in Toronto and a 364-bed hospital in Abu Dhabi. Cleveland Clinic London, a 184-bed hospital, will open in 2022. Cleveland Clinic is currently ranked as one of the nation's top hospitals by *U.S. News & World Report*.
clevelandclinic.org

©2020 The Cleveland Clinic Foundation