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A healthcare organization of **VHA**

Dear Salina Regional Health Center patient:

Thank you for choosing Salina Regional Health Center and entrusting us with your healthcare needs. We are committed to providing you with high-quality, collaborative care at all our service locations, including our hospitals, clinics and outpatient departments.

We are writing to inform you of a change that is taking place. Salina Regional Health Center (SRHC) is transitioning to provider-based billing. This means that all of SRHC clinics will become outpatient departments of SRHC. As SRHC continues to grow as a system and be a regional health care leader in north central Kansas, it was important for us to strategically align the clinics under the hospital. By completing this transition, it solidifies SRHC as a fully integrated healthcare system focused on quality, access, and continuity for all patients that choose SRHC for their care.

By providing specialized care in a hospital-based outpatient setting, we are able to deliver a seamless patient experience that is backed by our high standard quality of care. Reflecting this level of care, SRHC is classifying services located at all of our clinic locations as hospital-based outpatient departments.

When you receive care at a SRHC clinic location beginning on or after June 3, 2024, your billing statement may show a facility/technical charge. This is referred to as provider-based billing and may be a change from how you were billed in the past.

Your billing statement will reflect two service categories:

Hospital Facility/Technical Services: covers the use of the room and any medical, technical/procedural services, supplies, or equipment. The facility and/or treatment room charge is the result of your appointment occurring in a hospital outpatient department, also called a “provider-based facility.”

Physician and Clinical Professionals: covers your medical provider who provides services, treatments, or procedures.

Thank you again for choosing Salina Regional Health Center. We look forward to seeing you.

What is provider-based billing?

Provider-based billing is a type of billing for services given in a hospital or hospital facility. The hospital facility may be called an outpatient center, doctor's office, clinic, or practice. Clinics located miles away from the main hospital campus are considered off-campus departments of the hospital.

Why provider based billing?

Provider-based billing has become a common model of practice for health systems locally and around the United States. Provider-based billing ultimately ensures that SRHC and clinics are held to a high standard of safe, high-quality patient care by Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC) who has been deemed an approved accreditation authority by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

How does my bill look with provider-based billing?

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid have separate payment programs for provider-based billing (PBB). The PBB model will affect patients with Medicare, Medicare Managed Care, Tricare and VA. PBB will not affect patients with commercial insurance.

The billing statement will show:

- (1) Professional or physician charge for the provider you see;
- (2) Facility charge which covers the use of the room and any medical or technical supplies, equipment, and support staff.

Previously, all services and expenses were billed as one single charge. The overall charge for everyone will be the same amount, but for Medicare, Medicare Managed Care, Tricare and VA plans, that amount will split into two claims.

For patients with insurance, physician services will be processed under physician benefits, which are generally subject to patient copays. Hospital/facility services will be processed under hospital benefits and subject to deductibles and coinsurance. For most Medicare patients, the additional facility charge copay and deductible may add about \$25 in out-of-pocket costs.

However, the exact cost will vary depending upon services rendered and a patient's supplemental insurance coverage. ***If you have a secondary insurance plan in addition to Medicare, the coinsurance and deductibles are generally covered by secondary insurance. Patients should check their benefits or contact their health insurance company for details or questions.*

Will PBB change my appointments in any way?

You will continue to see your regular provider and healthcare team to receive high-quality care. No changes will be made to scheduling appointments and tests. If you have Medicare, you will be asked to complete the Medicare Secondary Payer questionnaire each time you register for the visit, just as you do now, to determine if Medicare is the primary payer or if something may have changed.

Who do I contact if I have questions about my insurance coverage?

Making informed healthcare decisions is important. You may want to ask your insurance company the following:

- Does my benefit plan cover facility charges in a hospital-based outpatient clinic?
- How much of the charges are covered by my plan?
- Will the charges be applied to my deductible or subject to coinsurance?

Who do I contact for billing questions or financial assistance?

- SRHC is committed to helping you understand our financial and billing policies. For questions regarding PBB, including hospital and physician charges, call Salina Regional Health Center Financial Services at (785)452-6299.

What Salina Regional Health Center locations are PBB?

- COMCARE Ohio at Salina Regional Health Center (off-campus)
- COMCARE Santa Fe at Salina Regional Health Center
- Heart Center at Salina Regional Health Center
 - Salina Regional Cardiology
 - Salina Regional Cardiothoracic Surgery
- Salina Pediatric Care at Salina Regional Health Center
- Salina Regional Endocrinology
- Salina Regional ENT & Audiology
- Salina Regional Neurosciences
- Salina Regional Neurosurgery
- Salina Regional Orthopedic Clinic
- Salina Regional Sports Medicine
- Salina Regional Podiatry
- Salina Regional Pulmonology & Sleep Medicine
- Salina Regional Surgical Associates
- Salina Regional Urgent Care Clinic (off-campus)
- Salina Women's Clinic at Salina Regional Health Center
- Tammy Walker Cancer Center
 - Salina Regional Hematology & Oncology
 - Salina Regional Radiation Oncology
- The Vein Clinic at Salina Regional Health Center
- Veridian Behavioral Health at Salina Regional Health Center
 - Veridian East at Salina Regional Health Center (off-campus)