

## **Information from your medical practice team regarding „practice charge“**

Dear patients,

As of January first, 2004, every patient over 18 years old must pay a fee of 10 Euros, provided he is a member of a legally required (as opposed to private) insurance company. Instead of being a medical, this is more likely a legal fee; the fee is not a source of additional income for this practice - in fact, it is deducted from our remuneration. This fee is usually due at the beginning of a quarter year, upon the first medical contact in this quarter; any further visits in the quarter after that are free of additional charges, as long as you visit the same doctor; appointments with other doctors are also free of charge, provided you can present them with a referral slip.

It follows that the first medical contact in a quarter should take place with the doctor who treats you on a regular basis. He then fills out referral slips to other doctors whose participation he considers necessary.

There is no charge for inoculations or preventive examinations.

Under certain financial conditions the insurance carrier is permitted to waive this „practice charge“. This waiver in written form must be presented to the office of the treating physician BEFORE treatment begins. Existing waivers lose their validity after December 31, 2003.

In order to minimize bureaucratic red tape as much as possible, we would like to request that you either pay the fee or present a referral slip, after January 1, 2004 before beginning of diagnosis and treatment.

We regret the inconvenience caused by the practice fee requirement, but have no influence on legislation, at least directly and immediately.

We thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

Your medical practice team.