

Understanding Facility Fees

Did you know that where you see your doctor can have an impact on what fees you pay for your visit? It's true.

You may be asked to pay a facility fee when you see a doctor at a facility that he or she doesn't own or that is owned by a hospital. Often, these facilities look like doctors' offices, and it may be hard to tell the difference whether or not the facility is owned by a hospital.

You'll encounter a facility fee most often at clinics owned by UW Hospital and Clinics, but many hospitals bill for a facility fee in some situations such as when visiting a doctor in a hospital clinic or receiving a minor procedure in such a clinic.

What are Facility Fees?

A facility fee is a charge that you may have to pay when you see a doctor at a clinic that is not owned by that doctor. Facility fees are charged in addition to any other charges for the visit.

Facility fees are often charged at clinics that are owned by hospitals to cover the costs of maintaining that facility. Facility fees can range from \$15 to hundreds of dollars, depending on the service you receive.

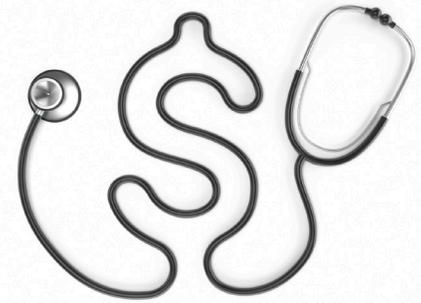
Is a Facility Fee Covered by Insurance?

Many insurance plans do not cover facility fees or cover only a portion. You may have a separate deductible for the facility fee as well. It is up to you to understand your coverage. If you are not sure how your plan covers facility fees, talk to your benefits administrator.

What Can I Do to Avoid Facility Fees?

Here are some steps to take to avoid facility fees:

- › Check Find a Doctor on The Alliance website (see the sidebar at the right). If the facility is known to charge a fee, you will see a message.
- › When you make an appointment at a facility, ask if you will be charged a facility fee.
- › If a facility charges a facility fee and you do not want to pay it, ask the doctor if he or she sees patients at a different location that does not charge facility fees.
- › If you choose to see a doctor at a facility that charges a facility fee, know how much it will be and what your responsibility will be.



Use Find a Doctor to Check for Facility Fees

To find a doctor or facility in The Alliance network, go to our website at the-alliance.org and click on Find a Doctor.

Find a Doctor will show you whether a doctor's office or clinic charges a "facility fee" on top of the fee for seeing the doctor. A facility fee is sometimes charged when a medical office is owned by a hospital. It can range from \$15 to hundreds of dollars.

