

Welcome to Northwest Asthma and Allergy Center.

The following is a description of your evaluation and the procedures that may be done. Please allow 2-2½ hours for the initial visit. **Please make sure to stop antihistamines 72 hours in advance of the visit (see Important Reminders).**

Do NOT stop asthma medication

ATTENTION PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Due to the in-depth history and exam for New Patients, a parent or legal guardian **MUST** accompany any patient under the age of 18. Established patients under the age of 18, **NOT** accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, may be seen **WITH** a current consent form on file in our office. Please ask at the front desk if you would like to sign a consent form to keep on file. Thank you for your cooperation.

The Physicians of Northwest Asthma & Allergy Center

The initial visit consists of a comprehensive evaluation to obtain information which may include:

- 1) *Medical, family and environmental history*: a) *A history of your current problems*, history of previous treatments and complications. b) *A review of your family history* to find out if other family members have similar or related problems. c) *A review of your environment* (home, school and work situations) to help identify possible causes of your problem. d) *A general review of your health*, called a Review of Systems, to identify other medical problems that may need consideration.
- 2) *Physical evaluation which may include*: a) Examination of pertinent body systems, with an emphasis on the respiratory system and skin. b) Pulmonary Function Tests (checks lung functions).
- 3) *Skin tests* may be done for inhalant allergens, foods, and drugs as suggested by your history and by the examination.
- 4) *Nasal Smear* may be done to check for allergy cells in nasal secretions, as suggested by your history and the examination.
- 5) Additional *diagnostic* tests may be ordered that are handled in-house. You may also be referred to an outside facility for testing (i.e. CT scan). If you are referred to a facility outside NAAC, you will be receiving a statement from that facility for this testing. Also, it is important to understand your insurance may require an additional or separate referral whenever an outside facility is utilized. Please contact your insurance for additional information.

Your doctor will provide you with information about your diagnosis and suggest a treatment program. The completion of the evaluation can only be done after all the test results have been reviewed and after you have had a chance to try out the recommended treatment program. **Follow-up Evaluation:** The completion of your evaluation is done at a follow-up appointment, usually 4-6 weeks following your initial visit. Please allow 15-30 minutes for this visit. This visit may include the following: discussion of a plan of care which includes advice on environmental controls, medications, discussion of allergy injections if indicated and recommendations for future visits and care. Additional testing may be done at this visit.

Special circumstances: Out of town patients -your follow-up appointment may be scheduled by telephone. Your insurance carrier may not allow the cost of the telephone follow-up, and you should verify this with your carrier.

Follow-up care: Your healthcare needs may require regular visits for follow-up care. A minimum of a yearly recheck is recommended to evaluate any changes in the course of your disease, or treatment, and to renew medications. Authorizations for prescription medications are valid for only 1 year by Washington State Law.

Urgent problems, emergency care: If you have an urgent problem, we can arrange to see you on short notice during our regular hours. We also have Saturday morning hours available in our Seattle office only. If you have an urgent problem after hours, you should call the main office number 206-527-1200 or 800-437-4055. A physician is always available on call to respond to your urgent problems.

Our medical staff are specialists who have been certified by the American Board of Allergy and Immunology. In addition, they are trained in pediatrics or internal medicine and are certified by the American Board of Pediatrics or American Board of Internal Medicine. Our medical staff are also members of the clinical faculty of the University of Washington School of Medicine and its affiliated hospitals. We have an active research center (ASTHMA, Inc.) where we do clinical studies in the field of allergic and asthmatic diseases.

Clifton T. Furukawa, M.D.
Leonard C. Altman, M.D.
Frank S. Virant, M.D.
Paul V. Williams, M.D.
Michael S. Kennedy, M.D.
Jonathan W. Becker, M.D.
Mary V. Lasley, M.D.

Michael E. Weiss, M.D.
Stephen A. Tilles, M.D.
Ashley Jerath Tatum, M.D.
John C. Walker, M.D.
Nola J. Attaway, M.D.
Jay D. Sprenger, M.D.
Thao N. Tran, M.D.

David R. Naimi, D.O.
Karna Gendo, M.D.
Michele Hinatsu, A.R.N.P.
Duane Frazier, R.N., PA-C
Tamara Chinn, A.R.N.P.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Please stop antihistamines (Alavert, Allegra, Allerclear, Astelin, Atarax, Benadryl, Clarinex, Claritin, Chlor-Trimeton, Dimetapp, Xyzal, Zyrtec, Etc) at least 3 days (72 hours) before your appointment.
- You may continue Sudafed and other non-antihistamine decongestant drugs.
- Complete and sign the General Patient Information, Allergy History and Consent to Discuss Medical Care forms- bring them in with you to your appointment.
- **ALL NORTHWEST ASTHMA & ALLERGY CLINICS ARE FRAGRANCE FREE. PLEASE DO NOT WEAR ANY PERFUME OR AFTERSHAVE TO YOUR APPOINTMENT.**
- **DO NOT STOP ASTHMA MEDICATIONS (INCLUDING PREDNISONE OR ASTHMA INHALERS).**

If you have any questions concerning which medications to stop, do not hesitate to call us.

CANCELLATION POLICY

One business day is required to cancel your appointment. If notice is given in less time, you will be assessed a \$50 charge. This will not be billed to your insurance. Patients who have late cancelled or no showed their appointments two times one year, may be discharged from the practice.

Healthcare Privacy Policies

NOTICE: We keep a record of the health care we provide you. You may ask for a copy of that record. You may also ask us to correct that record. We will not disclose your record to others unless you direct us to do so or unless the law authorizes or compels us to do so.

BILLING INFORMATION

Initial evaluations range in cost from \$450.00 to \$1,400.00, depending upon the complexity of the evaluation. This fee includes the initial visit, physical examination, diagnostic procedures, skin tests and additional diagnostic procedures done at our clinic. The follow-up visit is billed separately from the initial visit at an additional cost.

NOTE: As a service to our patients NAAC will file claims for all insurance plans. NAAC also requires a copy of your current insurance cards (front and back) in order to file claims to your insurance plan. The responsibility for payment of services provided rests directly with you, the patient, regardless of health insurance coverage. NAAC is obligated to comply with the policies and restrictions outlined by the insurance you have chosen for your health care needs. If you have questions about how your insurance processed and paid claims, please contact the insurance at the number provided on your insurance card. You may also contact Patient Accounts for assistance.

NAAC does not have an in house testing laboratory, all lab work is sent to an outside lab. Your insurance may have a specific contracted lab for full payment of services. Please give that Lab information to our staff for proper processing.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call our office for assistance.

Main Clinic 206-527-1200 Toll Free 800-437-4055 Referral Coordinator 206-576-1213 Referral Fax Number 206-527-2514 Patient Accounts Dept. 206-527-2577 / ptaccounts@nwasthma.com

Co-pays and insurance co-payments (as outlined by your insurance plan) are required to be paid at the time of each appointment. Patients are required to bring their insurance card information to each appointment. You will need to present your insurance card and photo ID (i.e. Driver's licence) to the Front Desk Staff when checking in for your appointment. If you do not have insurance coverage, you will be required to pay the following deposit amount at the time of your appointment-\$200 New Patient Appointments; \$150 for an Established Patient Appointment. **Please note** : the deposit amounts do not cover the total cost of your appointment visit. Additional patient responsibility amounts will apply.

CREDIT POLICY

Balances are due and payable THIRTY DAYS FROM THE STATEMENT DATE. If circumstances make it impossible for you to meet our credit terms, please call our Patient Accounts Department at (206) 527-2577 to make other arrangements. Payment plans are available. You will receive monthly statements showing your account activity and balances owing.