

# Bartels Medical Associates, PLLC

Medical Weight Control

218 Ashville Avenue, Suite 10

Cary, NC 27518-6118

Telephone 919.233.6644

[www.DrBartels.com](http://www.DrBartels.com)

## EXPLANATION OF MY PRACTICE POLICIES

The treatment of your weight problem is a difficult long-term endeavor. Unfortunately, this type of treatment is specifically excluded from some health insurance policies. Even if part of your treatment is covered by your health insurance, other parts probably will not be. We do not "participate" in any health insurance plans and I have signed no contracts with any health insurance carriers.

All of our fees are due at the time of service.

Our charge for each program visit is a global one which includes the office visit, usual specialized testing, and usual supplements or medications dispensed at that visit. If your case is an unusual one and requires medication, supplementation, or testing beyond the usual your charge will be higher. Any medications filled at pharmacies will be at your own cost.

We provide a "superbill" with each visit which you can submit to your insurance carrier, if any, for reimbursement. Even though we charge a global fee for each visit, an itemization is provided on the superbill which we hope will help you maximize your insurance reimbursement. I shall also include the relevant diagnosis or diagnoses on the superbill so that it will provide all of the information from us which is necessary to file an insurance claim. Most patients have found that the best course of action to follow is to immediately submit the first superbill to your insurance carrier. It should be attached to your insurance carrier's claim form in place of the "Physician Information" section after you complete your part of the form. It is then best to continue to file after each visit. We regret that we are unable to enter into disputes between you and your insurance carrier. Of course, I cannot add or delete any appropriate diagnosis at your request any more than I could charge for a service I had not provided. Please save your superbill copies after each visit. There will be an additional charge if you require copies at a future date.

We regret that due to increased costs, we are forced to increase our charge for unkept appointments (not cancelled 24 hours prior to the appointment) to \$60.00 per missed appointment. This fee is rarely reimbursed by health insurance plans.

Because of the specialized and comprehensive nature of our programs, we are unable to discount our usual visit charge to patients who provide some of their own lab work, provide their own vitamins, or who do not require the usual amount of medication or supplementation.

After the initial physical in order to insure proper medical care, we require a Complete Physical Exam performed once a year in this office. Dr. Bartels' exam will be geared towards the specialty practice of Bariatric Medicine.

This is a specialized medical practice for weight related problems. You should also have a primary care physician to take care of your routine medical problems. I no longer provide regular general medical care.

(over)

Occasionally, I may treat you for a minor intercurrent medical problem at the time of your visit. This is done as a courtesy and a convenience to you. It does not replace your responsibility to get regular medical care for yourself and does not create an obligation for me to continue to treat you for such a problem out of my usual scope of practice.

Because this is a specialty medical practice dealing with a difficult and serious disorder, you should be aware that your treatment may involve the use of diets and medications which are often considered experimental by insurance carriers and various government agencies including the FDA. You may be treated with medications for indications not listed in the official FDA prescribing information ("off-label" uses) or for longer periods of time or at higher doses than listed. I always welcome your questions about potential side-effects and feel that the benefit of any treatment should be considered as well as its risk.

My services are specifically excluded from Medicare and Medicaid programs and they, unfortunately, will not cover any part of your program if you are covered by them. Additionally, if you are covered by Medicare you are required (by the government) to sign a copy of my "Opt-out" contract. This is a requirement even though weight management services are excluded anyway.

We require that you read and sign this statement prior to all treatment. Your signature below indicates that you have read and understand this statement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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