

## AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR OUR SURGICAL PATIENTS

The surgical team at DAK appreciates the opportunity to assist you with your upcoming surgery. We understand that surgery can be an intimidating endeavor, and we hope to make your surgical experience as pleasant and successful as possible. Fortunately, our cure rates are over 99% for most types of surgery, including cancers.

### Our Facility

Surgeries are performed in our state-of-the-art ambulatory surgery center (ASC). We have earned full accreditation from both Medicare and the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) - a rare accomplishment for a single specialty group. Our 45,000 sq. ft facility is one of the largest of its kind in the United States. It is one of only 35 Medicare-accredited ASC's in the entire state of Kentucky and the only one devoted to dermatologic care. This achievement reflects our sustained efforts to bridge the gap between the high quality, but very expensive, care available in a hospital and the more comfortable, less intimidating, and more cost effective care achievable in an outpatient setting. Because our surgeries are not performed in an "office" setting, you will encounter an additional ASC facility fee, in addition to the actual surgical charges. However, the charges will still be substantially less than if the services were performed in a hospital setting because you will not incur anesthesiologist or hospital fees. Our surgeries are performed solely under local anesthesia, to lower both cost and risk. If you are having Mohs surgery for skin cancer, you will need to spend about 3 - 5 hours with us, due to the time needed to prepare microscopic slides for intraoperative analysis. If you are not comfortable with this time requirement or the thought of being awake during your surgery, please ask your referring physician to send you to a hospital-based surgeon who can perform your surgery under general anesthesia. Patients with conditions that make it difficult to lie still while awake (e.g. extreme anxiety, severe Parkinson's disease, dementia, or Alzheimers) will also need to seek care in a hospital setting, where deeper sedation is available via an anesthesiologist. Also, you will need to be able to lie in a "prone" position (face down) if the lesion is located on the back of your scalp, neck, back, buttocks, or legs.

### Preparing For Surgery

You should have received a separate brochure with detailed surgical instructions. Please review this information carefully to ensure the best surgical outcome. In addition:

- It is important that you bring a friend or family member who can drive you home after surgery.
- Most patients should take 2-3 days off work or school to recover from the operation.
- It is important to minimize any bending and lifting for at least 3 days after surgery (and more strenuous physical activities such as running, aerobics, golf, or lifting more than 10 pounds, for 2-3 weeks), so please plan accordingly with respect to your occupational, recreational, and social schedules.

### Your Financial Obligations

We recognize that insurance companies are increasingly shifting the financial burden of medical expenses to patients, in the form of larger deductibles and co-insurance. We are committed to assisting our patients with determining their financial obligations prior to surgery. Therefore, we will contact your insurance company to verify your expected obligation. It is important that you also review your individual insurance policy to determine your deductible, co-pay, and co-insurance for outpatient surgery in an ambulatory surgery center. Please note that it is difficult to give you an exact total cost figure until your surgery is completed, because charges are based on the size, location, depth, and number of lesions, and the type of reconstruction. Total surgery charges include:

- Excision of the lesion (includes microscopic analysis if having Mohs surgery)
- Reconstruction of the resulting defect
- An ASC facility fee (includes surgical supplies, anesthetic, medications, work performed by assistants, equipment)

As a rough estimate, most total surgery charges are:

- Between \$1,000 and \$2,000 for each benign lesion
- Between \$2,000 and 3,000 for each malignant lesion (cancer)

Please understand that total charges can be significantly higher for lesions that are large, recurrent, located in challenging areas (e.g. nose, eyelids, lips, or ears), or require multiple Mohs stages or advanced reconstructive techniques such as grafting or a flap.

The deductible and co-pay are due in-full at the time of service. We understand that these charges are significant and therefore accept credit card payment in addition to checks and cash. Dermatology Associates of Kentucky has been serving the citizens of Lexington and Kentucky since 1951, and we look forward to doing our very best to restore you to good health. Thank you for the privilege and honor of assisting you with your surgical needs.