

## Drug Pre-Authorization Policy

Effective 1-1-16

### **Houston Metro Urology, PA Drug Pre-Authorization Policy:**

As your physicians we always strive to give you the best possible treatment recommendations and prescribe the most suitable medications to treat your particular condition. Prescribing medication is a complex task which involves looking at the risk versus the benefit, and taking into consideration your overall health and your other medications.

Recently, we have been bombarded with requests for “Pre-Authorization” of medications. Simply put, this is an attempt by your prescription insurance to not pay for the medications that we prescribe. This “preauthorization” process is very time consuming for the physicians and our staff, often resulting in the insurance company denying medication coverage.

Insurance companies have limited formularies to save money. They also change their formulary, year to year, so what may be covered one year, may not be covered the next, making it even more difficult for you, their customer.

#### **EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1<sup>st</sup> 2016**

**HMU will no longer be able to pre-authorize medications that are filled at your local pharmacy or by mail order without charging you a fee of \$50.** This fee is due, in advance, and is nonrefundable. We will try to get the authorization for you; however, please keep in mind that the authorization may still be denied by your insurance carrier.

So, where does that leave you? You have several other choices:

1. Pay for the medication out of pocket.
2. Change your prescription insurance coverage to a plan that will cover the medication.
3. Bring a copy of your drug formulary so that we can see if there is an appropriate substitute or alternate for the drug we have prescribed.

Our physicians and staff are here to assist you, answer your questions, and work with you to make your experience as pleasant, efficient, and beneficial as possible. The healthcare insurance process is a complicated one and perhaps, if we navigate it together, it could be a “win-win” situation. Thank you.