

Questions about changes in your Medicare co-payment?

You may have recently noticed changes in your payment for chemotherapy. That change is a result of the Medicare legislation passed by Congress in 2003. The government has recently shifted payments for cancer care by reducing payments for anti-cancer drugs and increasing payments for services. This new system now pays for all the different components of your cancer care.

Medicare also is now collecting information about how some of the symptoms of chemotherapy are managed. This is a positive step, as this information may result in better care for you and other patients in the future.

Most insurers require patients to pay a percentage of their medical bills, called a “co-payment.” Medicare’s co-payment is 20% of the total charges per visit. While patients’ co-payments may vary depending on how they are being treated for their cancer, your co-payment for drugs will likely go down and the co-payment for services may go up. Overall, we believe that your total co-payment will be reduced under this new system.

If you have any questions, please ask my staff or me and we’ll be happy to discuss this with you in more detail.