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Dear Orchard Pediatrics Patients-

The process of caring for patients with ADD and ADHD is changing. The medications we prescribe for these conditions are controlled substances and we are expected to provide closer guidance for patients who take them. Regular communication with the doctor/parent/patient team ensures the patient's medication is giving them the most benefit and the least side effects.

Better care for patients with ADD/ADHD requires more frequent communication. In the past, we have required patients to be seen in the office two weeks after starting medication and then every 6 months to receive ADD medication. One of those visits was the annual checkup. Going forward, we will schedule 2 additional visits per year. In effect, the doctor and patient will be in contact every 3 months.

Some required "visits" can be done by telephone. Patients still must come to the office to check weight and blood pressure twice per year (one of those can be the annual checkup). For greater convenience, the 2 additional visits can be done as a scheduled phone call.

Ask your insurance company if they cover the following visit codes: 99441, 99442, 99443. There will be a charge for these "telephone ADD/ADHD visits." Patients are encouraged to check with their insurance company for coverage and choose whether they prefer telephone visits or office visits.

Patients will be required to have contact with the doctor (either in person or by phone) every 3 months to continue receiving their medication. The goal is that 3-months-worth of medication will be refilled at the time of the visit with the doctor. This will save precious time and energy as patients will no longer need to call for monthly refills. We believe that better teamwork will lead to better care!

Thank you for your cooperation!

Orchard Pediatrics