



The Maryland Outpatient Facility Fee Notice and Research Information for Research Staff

The Maryland's Facility Right-to-Know Act, better known as the [Maryland Outpatient Facility Fee Notice](#), became effective on July 1st 2021 and it requires Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions located in Maryland to provide a written notice with an estimate of outpatient hospital fees (thereafter "facility fee") for a scheduled service or procedure at the location selected.

Below you will find a few frequently asked questions about the process used by Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions (JHM) to comply with the required notice that will help you address inquiries from your research participants:

What is different for the research participant when scheduling an outpatient hospital-based appointment?

Research participants will be provided information, orally or through MyChart, at the time an appointment is scheduled. This includes statements about the location (i.e. that an outpatient hospital setting was selected), that the research participant will receive a facility and a professional fee bill, that there is financial assistance available if the research participant cannot pay, and that the facility fee might change if the service or procedure is performed in a location where facility fees may not be charged. Additionally, the research participant will receive a written notice in MyChart or by regular mail with an estimate of the charges. The estimate is based on typical or average facility fees for the same or similar appointments.

Is the facility fee notice a bill?

No. It is an estimate of hospital charges based on the services/procedures scheduled and the Maryland outpatient hospital-based facility selected.

Does the research participant have to make a payment based on the notice before the scheduled appointment?

The notice letter is an estimate and not a bill.

Will research participants receive these notices for standard of care and research services or procedures?

Research participant might receive letters related to the standard of care portion of the clinical trial that will be billed and processed as before. Note that costs specifically related to research may be included on the estimate and will not be billed to the research participant. These charges are reviewed and routed to the study prior to the issuance of a bill. If the study pays for all costs related to research, you can advise the research participant to ignore the letter for scheduled visits linked exclusively to the clinical trial.

Why is the facility fee being sent to the research participant instead of the participant's insurance being billed?

The letter is automatically generated by the Epic system based on the information available at the time the appointment was scheduled. If there is no insurance attached to the appointment or if the research participant was scheduled as self-pay, the full amount of the expected hospital charges will appear in the notice. The research participant will be able to update their insurance when they arrive and register for their scheduled appointment.

What can I do to help research participants understand the actual likely cost of their participation on the study?

- Review the *Financial Responsibility Information Sheet* at the time of the informed consent and any time that research participants have questions about research-related charges. This form outlines the services and procedures that will be covered by the study.
- Provide "*The Maryland Outpatient Facility Fee Notice and Research Participant Information FAQs*" document to the research participants.
- Please note that the outpatient facility notice letter directs questions to the research staff and advises points the research participant to use the *Financial Responsibility Information Sheet*.

What should I do if a research participant on my study has questions I cannot answer?

The research participant should call the cost estimates assistance line at 844-986-1584 for more information.