

The Pediatric Cardiology Medical Group -East Bay has contracts with most private and public insurers and medical groups in the area. Children's Hospital and Research Center at Oakland is a separate entity which also has contracts with most private and public insurers and medical groups in the area. When you see the cardiologist, the statement will be sent to your insurance company for the cardiologist's services. If the cardiologist orders a test or your child has a procedure at Children's Hospital, the Hospital and the Cardiologist will send a statement to your insurance company.

The fact that two entities are involved in your child's care can be confusing. If you have questions about your coverage or any bills that you receive you are encouraged to call the cardiology department for clarification. In some instances it may be necessary for you to contact your employer or the insurance company for clarification.

If you do not have insurance and want to discuss the financial impact of your child's heart condition, you should contact the department's social worker. Payment arrangements can be negotiated for both physician and hospital services.

Private Insurance

It is strongly recommended that you contact your insurance company before your child's visit with the cardiologist to confirm that the cardiologist and Children's Hospital and Research Center at Oakland are members of your network. Likewise, you should confirm any authorizations or referral requirements. Taking these steps before your child's appointment will help avoid any confusion or undue financial penalty on or after the visit.

Our office staff will assist you in getting any necessary authorization or referrals. Please make sure you bring your insurance card to all office visits. You should also be prepared to pay any co-payment required by your insurance company at the time of the visit.

MediCal

If your child has MediCal, please make sure that you bring the valid MediCal stickers with you each time your child has an appointment. If you have not received your MediCal card, please call the

cardiology office before your visit. If your child's MediCal case is pending, please contact MediCal and let them know of your child's need to see a cardiologist and your need to have the MediCal stickers.

CCS

California Children's Services (CCS) is a State of California program designed to assist income eligible families with eligible medical bills. Most cardiac conditions qualify for CCS coverage. If your child has MediCal, you will be automatically referred to CCS. If you have private insurance, you may still be eligible for assistance through the CCS program. Our office will provide you with an information sheet that more fully explains the CCS program. Please note that the Pediatric Cardiac Center at Children's Hospital and Research Center at Oakland is a CCS approved tertiary care center.

Disclaimer: The information provided here is intended to educate the reader about certain medical conditions and certain possible treatment. It is not a substitute for examination, diagnosis, and medical care provided by a licensed and qualified health professional. If you believe you, your child, or someone you know, suffer from the conditions described herein, please see your health care provider immediately. Do not attempt to treat yourself, your child or anyone else without proper medical supervision.

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