

## **Article 8**

### ***Billing and Payment Policy for Patients***

Vein abnormalities can produce symptomatic and cosmetic abnormalities. Most symptoms occur in the lower extremities and include aching, burning, cramping and fatigue. This is caused by abnormally high pressure within the leg veins. This condition is called venous insufficiency, venous reflux or venous hypertension. It is caused by failure of special one-way valves within the veins which ordinarily keep pressure low. This condition is diagnosed by duplex ultrasound examination.

Procedures are available which eliminate venous reflux by destroying or removing these abnormal veins. Examples include endovenous radiofrequency ablation (CLOSURE) and ligation plus stripping procedures. These procedures are generally covered by insurance carriers when performed to eliminate symptomatic reflux. Our staff will assist you in the authorization process.

Although most unsightly leg veins improve after treatment of insufficiency, rarely do they disappear. These veins are asymptomatic and a cosmetic problem. Insurance carriers do not cover procedures done to eliminate these veins. This includes techniques such as sclerotherapy, laser therapy and ambulatory phlebectomy. Fees for these procedures are payable in full at the time of the procedure. Your insurance company will not be billed for these procedures. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please ask.