



East Alabama Rheumatology Center

A Service of East Alabama Medical Center

Attention Patients: Did you know that East Alabama Rheumatology Center is an EAMC Department?

East Alabama Rheumatology Center (EARC) is an outpatient department of East Alabama Medical Center. It is common for outpatient clinics to be a part of a hospital system. Several of our services already operate as a hospital outpatient clinic. This is referred to as provider-based or hospital-based.

What is a hospital-based outpatient or provider-based clinic?

These are terms that The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) use to describe outpatient clinics that are a part of a hospital. Basically, it means that EARC is now considered to be a department of East Alabama Medical Center. It is a very common model of practice for integrated health care systems and is found in many hospitals and facilities around the nation.

How will this affect me?

You may notice the following changes:

- Signing in may take a little bit longer at each visit. We have a few more questions that we must ask each patient. We appreciate your patience.
- You may receive two explanation of benefits from your insurance carrier instead of one. One will be for services provided by the physician

and the other for the facility-related expenses.

- Depending on the services provided and your individual insurance coverage, you may have to pay an additional co-pay and/or deductible amount for the facility component of the visit.
- The facility component includes physician facility charges, injections, labs, x-rays and other procedures.
- Contact a staff member if you need help getting your benefits.
- We recommend that you review your insurance benefits to determine the amount your policy will pay and identify your possible out-of-pocket expenses.
- If you have secondary insurance, your additional co-pays or deductible amount may be covered.

What are the benefits of being cared for at a hospital-based outpatient clinic?

Medicare acknowledges the value of providing care in an integrated, collaborative environment. Hospital-based

outpatient clinics are held to nationally recognized service and patient care standards, leading to high quality care for patients.

The hospital and physicians will be able to better coordinate your care across the clinics and hospital. Your medical records will also be better coordinated between your physicians. EARC will be held to even higher clinical standards to help maintain the highest patient safety and service quality guidelines.

Still Need More Information?

Contact EAMC Physician Billing Services at 334-528-7240.

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