



## **DIRECT PRIMARY CARE PATIENT AGREEMENT Dare Direct Primary Care, PLLC.**

This is an Agreement between Dare Direct Primary Care, PLLC. (**Practice**), a NC PLLC, located at 2522 S. Croatan Hwy, Suite 1B, Kill Devil Hills, NC 27959; Dr. Phillip Austin (**Physician**) in his capacity as an agent of Dare Direct Primary Care, PLLC. and you, (**Patient**).

### **Background**

The Physician, practices family medicine, delivers care on behalf of the Practice in Nags Head, NC. In exchange for certain fees paid by You, Practice, through its Physician(s), agrees to provide Patient with the Services described in this Agreement on the terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement. The practice website is [daredirectprimarycare.com](http://daredirectprimarycare.com).

### **Definitions**

**1. Patient.** A patient is defined as those persons for whom the Physician shall provide Services, and who are signatories to, or listed on the documents attached as Appendix 1, and incorporated by reference, to this agreement.

**2. Services.** As used in this Agreement, the term Services, shall mean a package of ongoing primary care services, both medical and non-Medical, and certain amenities (collectively "Services"), which are offered by Practice, and set forth in Appendix 1 and 2. The Patient will be provided with methods to contact the physician via phone, email, and other methods of electronic communication. Physician will make every effort to address the needs of the Patient in a timely manner, but cannot guarantee availability, and cannot guarantee that the patient will not need to seek treatment in the urgent care or emergency department setting.

**3. Fees.** In exchange for the services described herein, Patient agrees to pay Practice, the amount as set forth in Appendix 1 and 2, attached. Applicable enrollment fees are payable upon execution of this agreement. If this Agreement is terminated by either party before the end of an applicable monthly period, then the Practice shall seek only partial payment for the final month of service based on the number of days of membership provided to the patient and the itemized charges, set forth in Appendix 2, for services rendered to Patient up to the date of termination.

**4. Non-Participation in Insurance.** Patient acknowledges that neither Practice, nor the Physicians participate in any health insurance or HMO plans. Physicians has opted out of Medicare. Patient acknowledges that federal regulations REQUIRE that Physicians opt out of Medicare so that Medicare patients may be seen by the Practice pursuant to this private direct primary care contract. Neither the Practice nor Physicians make any representations regarding third party insurance reimbursement of fees paid under this Agreement. The Patient shall retain full and complete responsibility for any such determination. If the Patient is eligible for Medicare, or during the term of this Agreement becomes eligible for Medicare, then Patient will sign the agreement attached as

Appendix 3, and incorporated by reference. This agreement acknowledges your understanding that the Physician has opted out of Medicare, and as a result, Medicare cannot be billed for any services performed for you by the Physician. You agree not to bill Medicare or attempt Medicare reimbursement for any such services.

**5. Insurance or Other Medical Coverage.** Patient acknowledges and understands that this Agreement is not an insurance plan, and not a substitute for health insurance or other health plan coverage (such as membership in an HMO). It will not cover hospital services, or any services not personally provided by Practice, or its Physicians. Patient acknowledges that Practice has advised that patient obtain or keep in full force such health insurance policy(ies) or plans that will cover Patient for general healthcare costs. Patient acknowledges that THIS AGREEMENT IS **NOT A CONTRACT THAT PROVIDES HEALTH INSURANCE**, in isolation does NOT meet the insurance requirements of the Affordable Care Act, and is not intended to replace any existing or future health insurance or health plan coverage that Patient may carry. This Agreement is for ongoing primary care, and the Patient may need to visit the emergency room or urgent care from time to time. Physician will make every effort to be available at all times via phone, email, other methods such as “after hours” appointments when appropriate, but Physician cannot guarantee 24/7 availability.

**6. Term.** This Agreement will commence on the date it is signed by the Patient and Physician below and will extend monthly thereafter. Notwithstanding the above, both Patient and Practice shall have the absolute and unconditional right to terminate the Agreement, without the showing of any cause for termination. The Patient may terminate the agreement with twenty-four hours prior notice, but the Practice shall give thirty days prior written notice to the Patient and shall provide the patient with a list of other Practices in the community in a manner consistent with local patient abandonment laws. Unless previously terminated as set forth above, at the expiration of the initial one-month term (and each succeeding monthly term), the Agreement will automatically renew for successive monthly terms upon the payment of the monthly fee at the end of the contract month. Examples of reasons the Practice may wish to terminate the agreement with the Patient may include but are not limited to:

- (a) The Patient fails to pay applicable fees owed pursuant to Appendix 1 and 2 per this Agreement;
- (b) The Patient has performed an act that constitutes fraud;
- (c) The Patient repeatedly fails to adhere to the recommended treatment plan, especially regarding the use of controlled substances;
- (d) The Patient is abusive, or presents an emotional or physical danger to the staff or other patients of Practice;
- (e) Practice discontinues operation; and
- (f) Practice has a right to determine whom to accept as a patient, just as a patient has the right to choose his or her physician. Practice may also terminate a patient without cause as long as the termination is handled appropriately (without violating patient abandonment laws).

**7. Privacy & Communications.** You acknowledge that communications with the Physician using phone (land line or cellular), e-mail, facsimile, video chat, and instant or direct messaging, are not guaranteed to be secure or confidential methods of communications. The practice will make an effort to secure all communications but by signing this agreement you consent to the use of these non-secure methods of communication. You expressly waive the Physicians obligation to guarantee confidentiality with respect to correspondence using such means of communication. You acknowledge all such communications may become part of your medical record.

**8. Severability.** If for any reason any provision of this Agreement shall be deemed, by a court of competent jurisdiction, to be legally invalid or unenforceable in any jurisdiction to which it applies, the validity of the remainder of the Agreement shall not be affected, and that provision shall be deemed modified to the minimum extent necessary to make that provision consistent with applicable law and in its modified form, and that provision shall then be enforceable.

**9. Reimbursement for Services if Agreement is Invalidated.** If this Agreement is held to be invalid for any reason, and if Practice is therefore required to refund all or any portion of the monthly fees paid by Patient, Patient agrees to pay Practice an amount equal to the fair market value of the Services actually rendered to Patient during the period of time for which the refunded fees were paid.

**10. Assignment.** This Agreement, and any rights Patient may have under it, may not be assigned or transferred by Patient.

**11. Jurisdiction.** This Agreement shall be governed and construed under the laws of the State of North Carolina and all disputes arising out of this Agreement shall be settled in the court of proper venue and jurisdiction for the Practice address in Nags Head, NC.

**12. Patient Understandings (initial each):**

\_\_\_\_\_ This Agreement is for ongoing primary care and is NOT a medical insurance agreement.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do NOT have an emergent medical problem at this time.

\_\_\_\_\_ In the event of a medical emergency, I agree to call 911 first.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do NOT expect the practice to file or fight any third party insurance claims on my behalf.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do NOT expect the practice to prescribe chronic controlled substances on my behalf.

(These include commonly abused opioid medications, benzodiazepines, and stimulants.)

\_\_\_\_\_ In the event I have a complaint about the Practice I will first notify the Practice directly.

\_\_\_\_\_ I consent to the use of potentially non-secure methods of communication with the Practice, such as phone (land line or cellular), e-mail, facsimile, video chat, and instant or direct messaging. I also acknowledge and consent that these communications with the Practice may contain Protected Health Information.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am enrolling (myself and my family if applicable) in the practice voluntarily.

Patient Name \_\_\_\_\_

Patient (or Guardian) Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Physician Name \_\_\_\_\_

Physician Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## **APPENDIX 1 Dare Direct Primary Care Periodic & Enrollment Fees**

This Agreement is for ongoing primary care. This Agreement is NOT HEALTH INSURANCE and is NOT A HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION. The Patient may need to use the care of specialists, emergency rooms, and urgent care centers that are outside the scope of this Agreement. Each Physician within the Practice will make an appropriate determination about the scope of primary care services offered by the Physician.

### **Fee Schedule**

Enrollment Fee – This is charged when the Patient enrolls with the Practice and is nonrefundable. This fee is subject to change. If a patient discontinues membership and wishes to re-enroll in the practice we reserve the right to decline re-enrollment or to require that the re-enrollment fee reflect an amount equivalent to the months of absent payments when dis-enrolled from the Practice.

Your Enrollment fee is \$\_50.00\_\_\_\_

Monthly Periodic Fee (billed at the end of the service period) – This fee is for ongoing primary care services. Twenty scheduled in person visits per year are available to you at no additional cost. Each scheduled in person visit over twenty will be charged a \$65 per visit fee. Your number of virtual visits (e-mail, electronic, phone) are not capped. We prefer that you schedule visits more than 24 hours in advance when possible. Some ancillary services will be passed through “at cost” with markup to cover cost of executing the services. Examples of these ancillary services include laboratory testing and certain procedures. Many services available in our office (such as EKGs) are available at no additional cost to you. Items available at no additional cost will be listed on our website and are subject to change.

The monthly periodic fee is based on age and is \$49 per month for ages 21-40, \$59 per month for ages 41-60, and \$69 per month for ages over 61. Patients under 20 years old will be \$35 per month and \$25 per month with an enrolled parent. (due at the end of the month of service).

The periodic fee will be billed on the patient selected day of the month (after the ongoing primary care has been provided) and the patient is entitled to leave the practice at any time and be assigned a prorated final bill based upon the date of withdrawal from the practice.

### After-Hours Visits

There is no guarantee of after-hours availability. This agreement is for ongoing primary care, not emergency or urgent care. Your physician will make reasonable efforts to see you as needed after hours if your physician is available.

### Acceptance of Patients

We reserve the right to accept or decline patients based upon our capability to appropriately handle the patient’s primary care needs. We may decline new patients pursuant to the guidelines proffered in Section 6 (Term), because the Physician’s panel of patients is full, or because the patient requires medical care not within the Physician’s scope of services.

## **Appendix 2 Dare Direct Primary Care Itemized Fees**

Ongoing Primary Care is included with the Periodic Fee described in Appendix 1. Please see a list of some of the chronic conditions we routinely treat on the Practice website (subject to change). There are no itemized fees for office visits unless the patient has more than twenty scheduled in-office visits in a calendar year.

In-Office Procedures we are generally comfortable performing are listed on the Practice website. These are typically available at no additional cost unless otherwise designated, and these are also subject to change.

Laboratory Studies will be drawn in the office with a charge for drawing the lab to cover expenses of handling the labs and the Patient will be charged according to the direct price rate we have negotiated with the lab.

Pathology studies (most commonly skin biopsies) will be ordered in the most economical manner possible. Anticipated prices for these studies (subject to change) will be discussed with patient prior to doing the procedure.

Radiology studies will be ordered in the most cost effective manner possible for the Patient.

Surgery and specialist consults will be ordered in the most cost effective manner possible for the Patient.

Vaccinations are NOT offered in our office at this time due to the cost prohibitive nature of stocking a limited supply. We will make an effort to help you obtain needed vaccinations elsewhere in the most cost effective manner possible.

Hospital Services are NOT covered by our membership plan, and due to mandatory "on call" duties required at local institutions we have elected NOT to obtain formal hospital admission privileges at this time.

### Appendix 3 Dare Direct Primary Care Medicare Patient Understandings

This agreement is between Dare Direct Primary Care, PLLC, and  
Medicare Beneficiary: \_\_\_\_\_  
Who resides at: \_\_\_\_\_  
With Medicare ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient is a Medicare Part B beneficiary seeking services covered under Medicare Part B pursuant to Section 4507 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. The Practice has informed Beneficiary or his/her legal representative that Physicians at the Practice have opted out of the Medicare program. The Physicians in the Practice have not been excluded from participating in Medicare Part B under [1128] 1128, [1156] 1156, or [1892] 1892 of the Social Security Act.

Beneficiary or his/her legal representative agrees, understands and expressly acknowledges the following:

Initial each:

- \_\_\_ Beneficiary or his/her legal representative accepts full responsibility for payment of the physician's charge for all services furnished by the physician.
- \_\_\_ Beneficiary or his/her legal representative understands that Medicare limits do not apply to what the physician may charge for items or services furnished by the physician.
- \_\_\_ Beneficiary or his/her legal representative agrees not to submit a claim to Medicare or to ask the physician to submit a claim to Medicare.
- \_\_\_ Beneficiary or his/her legal representative understands that Medicare payment will not be made for any items or services furnished by the physician that would have otherwise been covered by Medicare if there was no private contract and a proper Medicare claim had been submitted.
- \_\_\_ Beneficiary or his/her legal representative enters into this contract with the knowledge that he/she has the right to obtain Medicare-covered items and services from physicians and practitioners who have not opted out of Medicare, and the beneficiary is not compelled to enter into private contracts that apply to other Medicare-covered services furnished by other physicians or practitioners who have not opted out.
- \_\_\_ Beneficiary or his/her legal representative understands that Medi-Gap plans do not, and that other supplemental plans may elect not to, make payments for items and services not paid for by Medicare.
- \_\_\_ Beneficiary or his/her legal representative acknowledges that the beneficiary is not currently in an emergency or urgent health care situation.
- \_\_\_ Beneficiary or his/her legal representative acknowledges that a copy of this contract has been made available to him.

Executed on:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Medicare Beneficiary or his/her legal representative

And: \_\_\_\_\_

On behalf of Dare Direct Primary Care

Dare Direct Primary Care, PLLC