

Dear Rheumatology Patient:

Your doctor has scheduled a Rheumatology consultation with Dr. Adams at the Orthopedic Clinic in their Opelika office. Your first consultation visit with Dr. Adams may take 60 minutes or more, depending on your medical problems. Be sure to allow enough time for this important visit.

Also, please bring with you any pertinent medical records, laboratory tests that have been done and x-rays that you've had. These will help us determine your condition and the best way to treat it.

It is very important that you complete the enclosed health questionnaire before you come for your consultation visit. We know these questions cover a lot of information, and not every section may apply to you, but it will make your visit with Dr. Adams more efficient if you have this with you when you come for your first visit.

We have several policies we'd like for you to know about before you come for your first visit. These policies are designed to safeguard our patients and our practice.

First, Dr. Adams is not opposed to vitamins and complimentary health practices, but you need to share this information with us. Some prescription medicines don't mix well with herbal or vitamin preparations.

Second, Dr. Adams does not do "pain management." He will be happy to render an opinion regarding the suitability of chronic pain management, but our office is not equipped to perform the duties required for chronic pain management.

Third, we do not ordinarily refill routine prescriptions on Fridays or the weekends. Please plan ahead when you think you may be running short of medicine. All scheduled medications are dispensed by written prescription only.

Fourth, we want to be sure you understand that there may be additional blood tests or other lab tests required as part of your evaluation. The lab tests are handled by a separate facility, and charges for these tests will not be part of your bill from our clinic.

Finally, it is very important for you to have a primary care doctor (pediatrician, family physician or internist) to coordinate your health care. Dr. Adams does not practice primary care, but works closely in cooperation with your primary care doctor as part of your health care team.

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