

October 2018

To my present and potential patients:

My mission as a physician is to truly make the world a better place by providing the highest level of patient care every day. I treat all comers--from the needy in Africa to elite athletes, CEOs of Fortune 500 companies, and everyone in between. Approximately 50% of my patient population is on Medicare. So I care for patients whose insurance is Medicare every day. They are an integral part of the TruOrtho family the same as every other patient. So what does “Dr. Marshall-Rodriguez is an opt-out Medicare provider” mean?

The law that originally brought Medicare into existence in 1965 specifically prohibited the government from engaging in the “practice of medicine”. Unfortunately, each year, the government becomes more involved in the day to day care of individual patients. The burden of guidelines and reporting requirements are increasing; often to the detriment of the patient. The individual patient becomes lost in the paperwork. As physicians, we can decide where we want our focus to be—on the patient or the paper-pushing. Participation in Medicare is voluntary; so I have chosen to focus on the patient, not the paperwork. In order to continue to provide each patient with cutting-edge, highly personalized care, I have opted out of the Medicare program. What does this mean for you as a patient?

An opted-out physician does not accept Medicare as insurance. You get many benefits when you choose an opted-out physician. Your treatment is customized to fit you, not a cookie cutter approach for a government-defined population. Physicians who accept Medicare as insurance are forced to spend time collecting information that has no relevance to your orthopaedic issues. Then, additional time completing forms and submitting this information to the government is required as well. The opted out physician can instead spend this quality time with you, the patient. We also put your privacy as a priority. You can always see your own medical records, but nobody outside of this office will see your records without legal consent. The Medicare provider is required to transmit your personal information to the government.

Importantly, all care directed by an opted-out physician to a Medicare provider is covered by Medicare. So, for those who require special tests or who are candidates for surgery; the imaging centers, labs, hospitals, physical therapists, anesthesiologists, etc. are all covered by Medicare in the usual fashion. Only the service of the opted-out physician is not covered. Our services are provided on a fee for service basis under a Medicare Private Contract. If you’ve not already been offered one, please request one now.

In closing, we promise to provide personalized, state of the art, concierge-level service at an affordable price. We believe that there is great value in that. We hope that you agree.

Thank you for your time and interest in becoming a part of the TruOrtho family.

Sincerely,

Amanda Marshall-Rodriguez, M.D.