

LABWORK AND PATHOLOGY BILLING

- 1) Who is Dr. Ilene Bayer-Garner, M.D., and why might I receive a bill from her?

Dr. Ilene Bayer-Garner is a Dermatopathologist at Damascus Dermatology & Skin Surgery Center who specializes in reviewing skin biopsy specimens. She has diagnosed countless biopsies for many premier Dermatology practices in Maryland and she is considered one of the best local Dermatopathologists. If you receive a bill with charge codes from her, it will be for her service in diagnosing the biopsy or surgery slide(s) provided. Her name may appear on bills from Annapath Pathology Services or Aurora Diagnostics Mid-Atlantic Pathology Services as well as directly from our office.

- 2) Who are Annapath Inc. and Aurora Diagnostics Mid-Atlantic Pathology Services and why might I receive a bill from one of them?

Annapath Inc. and Aurora Diagnostics Mid-Atlantic Pathology Services are excellent independent laboratories who prepare and processes slides for numerous medical practices. If you have a biopsy or a certain type of surgery, one of these labs will process the tissue sample. This includes creating a slide and performing any additional necessary staining tests in order to allow Dr. Bayer-Garner to make an accurate diagnosis. This processing will sometimes incur an additional fee depending on your type of insurance. If you have further questions regarding a bill from Annapath, you can contact their billing department directly at 301-464-0603. For Aurora Diagnostics Mid-Atlantic Pathology Services, billing inquiries can be directed to 833-262-4527.

- 3) I received a bill from Annapath or Mid-Atlantic Pathology Services as well as your office that had the same charge codes. Am I being double billed?

When you have a tissue sample taken in our office there are two other places that charges can occur, Annapath Inc. or Aurora Diagnostics Mid-Atlantic Pathology Services and Dr. Ilene-Bayer Garner (see above). The charges from Annapath Inc or Aurora Diagnostics Mid-Atlantic Pathology Services are for the technical portion (preparing the slides) and the charges from Dr. Ilene Bayer-Garner are for the professional portion (reading the slides and making a diagnosis). These can often be filed under the same charge codes, but are in fact for different services.

- 4) Will a specimen ever be sent to another Dermatopathologist for a second opinion?

Dr. Bayer-Garner may request a second opinion on a specimen if a rare and/or extremely complex diagnosis is being considered. This happens very infrequently and the specimen is usually sent to a Harvard-affiliated laboratory where another Dermatopathologist who specializes in that specific diagnosis collaborates on the case. Additional costs may be associated with a second opinion. We will do our best to inform you if your specimen is being considered for second opinion. In the event you wish to forgo a second opinion, please inform us directly.