

Introducing a “Self-Pay” package for LINX® Reflux Management System

Unfortunately, despite numerous peer-reviewed publications in the medical literature proving the safety and efficacy of the LINX device for long-term control of GERD, many insurance companies decline to provide benefits for the procedure. Many insurance companies that do agree to pay only do so after up to 6 months of paperwork and appeals. Even when they authorize the procedure, they can decide not to pay after the fact, leaving patients responsible for the bill. At Froedtert and the Medical College of Wisconsin, we have created a self-pay option at our Ambulatory Surgery Center to improve access to this treatment for GERD for patients who struggle to control their symptoms on acid reduction medications alone.

Comparison of Self-Funded Procedure vs. Insurance

	Self-Funded	Insurance
Control over therapy decision	Patient	Insurance company
Wait time to coverage decision	None	Can take 6 months or longer
Risk of insurance denial	No	Yes
Undisclosed costs	None	Varies

Estimated out-of pocket expenses

Assuming the hospital procedure is \$25,000 and the patient has a high deductible plan:

Deductible	\$5,000 ¹	
Co-Pay	\$2,500 ¹	(10% of hospital procedure cost)
Medication	\$800 ²	(6 months of continued use during insurance process)
Potential out of pocket	\$8,300	

^{1.} Based on data from Torax and BCBS

^{2.} Data averaged from Prime Therapeutics and Walgreens

Be sure to understand the terms of your insurance plan. Many insurance plans have high deductibles and co-pays. It is also important to know the cost of your procedure if performed in a hospital as opposed to an ambulatory surgery center. These costs vary by region and by hospital.

If you decide to take advantage of the self-pay package price, we will create a specific quote for you. The price is approximately \$10,000. Our intent is to bill you once for the entire episode of care (no hidden costs). If interested in learning about whether you are an appropriate candidate for the LINX® Reflux Management System, please contact us at <http://www.mcw.edu/General-Surgery/Patient-Info/Our-Team.htm>.