



Women Gynecology & Childbirth Associates, P.C.

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Dear Patients,

Recently, there has been a great deal of attention given to the issue of pharmaceutical companies and their interactions with doctors and doctor's offices. You may have seen such stories on the news, in the newspaper or received a letter on this topic from such agencies as the AARP. The concern raised by some is that pharmaceutical companies provide "gifts" to doctors and doctor's offices in an effort to influence the doctor to prescribe new, expensive, brand-name medications. These medications often cost more than less expensive, but equally effective drugs.

We would like you to know that Women Gynecology & Childbirth Associates, PC has a policy in place **against** such influence from pharmaceutical companies. In fact, in November 2007 our practice put in writing our policy, which states "... **we will not be accepting pharmaceutical luncheons, miscellaneous food items, or pharmaceutical promotional products, such as pens, note pads, clocks, other gifts, etc.**" We made this decision based on the fact that we, too, are concerned over the rising cost of healthcare and prescription medications.

Our office does maintain a supply of medication samples provided by pharmaceutical companies. These samples are allocated to patients who have financial hardships or who wish/need to evaluate a new medication. We do not receive any financial reimbursement from pharmaceutical companies for stocking or distributing these samples. We do it solely as a service to our patients.

The medications our providers prescribe is determined exclusively on what is best for the individual patient as well as the provider's best judgment based on current research and science- not the influence of pharmaceutical companies.

We want to assure you that patient care remains our number one priority. Should you have any questions on this issue, please speak with your provider or contact Chris LeStorti, our Practice Administrator at 244-3430 x 100. Thank you.

Sincerely,

The physicians and staff of Women Gynecology & Childbirth Associates, PC