

USSC

USSC is neither a university nor an LA “pro” football team. The acronym stands for Urology Specialists of Southern California. It is a one-specialty group practice of urology—in existence for over 5 years--whose current members practice from northern LA County to southern Orange County.

I have signed on to become a member of the USSC team effective January 1, 2013.

Although a group practice, the nice thing is that I will remain in my familiar one-doctor office here in Newport Beach; and run things the same way I have for 25 years. I will retain the staff you have gotten to trust. The practice will have my name, but there also be “Inc.” for incorporated. My signage and letterheads will soon have “Member of USSC” affixed to them.

There are no mandates from USSC about how to practice medicine; how many patients to see; or what percentage of patients need labs, radiographic studies, or surgeries. I will continue to offer state-of-the-art, honest, pragmatic and ethical urology.

USSC will oversee the operations of all its divisions/urologists; bill Medicare and insurances under one federal tax ID number (you will see this on your explanation-of-benefits and statements); coordinate medical services coding, billing, and collections; and provide HR benefits to physicians and employees including payroll, pension, health and dental, employment policies, and relevant insurances. Doctor-members of USSC meet on a regular basis to insure the highest quality of urological care across the board and to strive to represent all areas of urology, even somewhat esoteric diseases and therapies, within our very group. If there is anything I cannot do to help you, there is likely to be someone else in USSC who can take on the task. We will use the same electronic health records platform to unify data and treatment; and facilitate (HIPPA-compliant) transfer of medical records.

USSC does and will offer more ancillary services such as the latest in prostate cancer detection (using MR-ultrasound fusion); IMRT (Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy) for prostate cancer; state-of-the art pathology laboratory; women's health centers for diagnosis and treatment of bladder disorders; men's sexual health centers; a network of physician assistants/nurse practitioners to extend our ability to care for an increasing number of patients needing urologists; and the like. These are all considered an “extension” of office services, albeit geographically disconnected from where we practice. For example, I can do prostate biopsies in my office currently and physically own the machine/store it in my office; I cannot personally own an entire linear accelerator (produces radiation therapy, e.g., to treat prostate cancer), nor would such a piece of equipment fit in my office. Where there is “group” ownership of these ancillary services, we will always present alternatives to you--while assuring that our facilities will be the best and most cost-effective available.

USSC was developed before we even knew of Obamacare; but is poised to deal with exigencies of the “Affordable Care Act” far better than can any urology solo or small group practice. It is fair to say that for someone like me, the “new economics” of medicine--with higher practice costs, more bureaucracy and declining reimbursements--make it not elective, but mandatory to align with a great group of people such those in as USSC. You, my patients, and I, both stand to benefit.

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