

# NOTICE TO FIRST HEALTH PATIENTS

Effective January 10, 2016, Knight Dermatology Institute (J. Matthew Knight, MD, PA) will no longer participate with First Health

## WHY DID OUR PRACTICE MAKE THIS DECISION?

Over the past decade, we have witnessed a remarkable increase in the cost of providing quality care to our patients. Unfunded federal mandates and the cost of compliance with bureaucratic regulations are certainly a large part of this problem, as is everyday inflation.

Unfortunately, First Health has not increased our reimbursement rates since our original contract was signed over seven years ago. At this point, First Health reimburses us at rates well below the U.S. government (i.e. *Medicare rates*). Our practice is losing money with every First Health beneficiary we see.

Regrettably, the last date that we will be accepting First Health is January 10, 2016.

Of course, just because we are no longer working with First Health it does NOT mean that we wish to lose you as our patient. We would be very happy to see you as a *private patient* (no insurance) – a trend that is becoming much more common in our practice, given the new phenomena of astronomic patient deductibles and limited network plans. Our office is glad to share our fee structure with you, and I think you will find it reasonable. Of course, if your policy allows it, we can give you an itemized statement after your appointment so that you may submit it to First Health for partial out-of-network reimbursement.

Above all, rest assured that Knight Dermatology Institute will work with you to ensure the quality and continuity of your care. Please feel free to ask us any questions you may have in regard to this very difficult decision, being seen as a *private patient*, our rates and the other health plans in which we continue to participate.

Wishing you a wonderful 2016!

J. Matthew Knight, M.D.